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BROWN'S KENT 'BATTLEFIELD'



Prime Minister comes out fighting in election push for key marginal seats

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown has thrown down the gauntlet in Kent after admitting the county will be a key battlefield during the general election.

Speaking exclusively to KOS Media on Thursday, Mr Brown gave a clear indication that he was taking the wishes of the people of Kent – home to six marginal seats – seriously.

And with five of those seats currently held by members of his own party, the PM is under no illusions as to the importance of winning the fight in the Garden of England.

He said: "It's an incredibly important battlefield, but it's important because what we want to do to ensure our economy is secure is important to every single citizen."

"I've visited Kent on a number of occasions since I took this job and I've enjoyed

EXCLUSIVE
By **STEVE KNIGHT**

every one of them. Obviously it's important to keep in touch with what people are thinking, and I know what the people of Kent want first and foremost is for the economic recovery to be secured.

"They also want to see the number of people finding jobs thriving and they want the best opportunities after they leave school for college or university, and that is what we will deliver."

At the last general election in May, 2005, five of Kent's Labour MPs retained their seats with majorities of less than 750 votes.

These were Howard Stoate (Dartford, majority of 706), Stephen Ladyman (Thanet South, 664), Paul Clark (Gillingham and

Rainham, 254), Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway, 213) and Derek Wyatt (Sittingbourne and Sheppey, 79).

Conservative MP Adam Holloway holds the other remaining marginal seat in Gravesham, winning the last election with a majority of 654.

There will be added pressure for Labour this year as three of the MPs – Wyatt, Stoate and Marshall-Andrews – have all announced they will be stepping down.

When asked if he had a message for the county's undecided voters, the Prime Minister – speaking to KOS as he passed through Kent en route to an EU summit in Brussels – replied: "Don't let the Tories wreck the recovery."

He added: "Everything we have done to strengthen the economy they have opposed. We are making the right decisions in helping people through the recovery, but

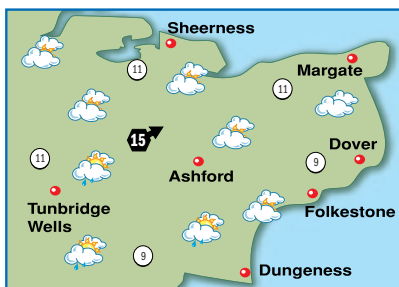
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO
BACK ME: Brown says he knows what Kent wants



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Kent today



TODAY: A mostly dry day with sunny spells and variable amounts of cloud. There is just the small risk of an isolated shower. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Quite a cloudy night but mostly dry. A few spots of drizzle towards dawn. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	8	46	London	showers	12	54
Belfast	cloudy	10	50	Liverpool	fair	9	48
Birmingham	showers	10	50	Manchester	showers	10	50
B'mouth	rain	11	52	Newcastle	showers	11	52
Bristol	rain	9	48	Norwich	fair	12	54
Cardiff	rain	10	50	Oxford	showers	11	52
Cork	rain	9	48	Southsea	rain	11	52
Edinburgh	showers	10	50	S'hampton	rain	11	52
Glasgow	cloudy	9	48	Southport	fair	9	48
Isle of Man	fair	9	48	Swansea	rain	9	48
Leeds	rain	9	48	Torquay	rain	10	50

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.40am	Sunset	7.22pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.41pm	Moonsset	5.34am	7.22pm to 6.38am

High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	10.36 6.4 22.58 6.6	11.21 6.6 23.41 6.9
Margate	11.37 4.6 23.53 4.7	- - 12.26 4.7
St Mary's	04.04 5.5 16.31 5.5	04.51 5.8 17.15 5.8

Week ahead

monday Light rain. max 12C min 6C	thursday Light showers. max 12C min 5C
tuesday Light rain. max 11C min 4C	friday Light showers. max 12C min 5C
wednesday Showers. max 11C min 4C	saturday Rain. max 13C min 5C

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Dropping stamp duty won't make a big difference

By **MARLIKE COX**

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ESTATE agents have dismissed claims by Chancellor Alistair Darling that new stamp duty reforms will kick-start the ailing housing market.

Mr Darling announced in his Budget this week that he was scrapping the levy for first-time buyers on properties worth up to £250,000, saying it would benefit nine out of 10 prospective purchasers.

But industry experts have rubbished his claims, saying the move is not going to help first-time buyers who are faced with deposits reaching, in some cases, a staggering £30,000.

Peter Goodwin, from Wilbee and Son estate agents in Herne Bay, said scrapping stamp duty is not enough.

"Although this could save first-time buyers more than £1,000 in costs, before they can even start thinking about stamp duty they have to come up with a deposit," he said.

"In some cases this can be as high as £31,000 and although, yes, every penny counts, there is a vast difference between this amount and the £1,000 or so stamp duty saving at the end of the transaction.

"Until the banks and building societies start lending again we're not going to see a big turnaround. The general feeling is this change isn't going to make a difference

THE Prime Minister has assured Kent voters his party has no plans to build a Boris Island-style airport in the Thames Estuary.

Tory London Mayor Boris Johnson has promoted the idea of such a development – which would be built on floating islands off the coast of the Isle of Sheppey – as an alternative to the Government's controversial third runway at Heathrow.

Environmentalists and local politicians have slammed the idea since it was first suggested in 2008, and Gordon Brown confirmed to KOS Media this week that it was not something Labour supports.

He said: "We as a government have made a commitment to the future of Heathrow and I think people know where we stand on this issue.

"I know the Tories are against what we want to achieve at Heathrow but I think our proposals are better than theirs."

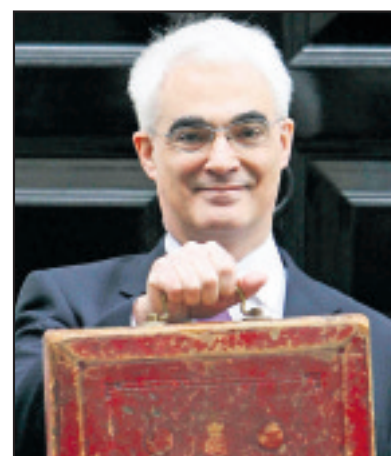
to the housing market here in Kent.

"The rental market is booming because there are no massive deposits needed and the law protects tenants far more than people with a mortgage, so this will continue."

Concession

Mr Goodwin said the only way this would change was if stamp duty was scrapped for all buyers on properties worth up to £250,000.

"This would really help, although it would probably bring market prices down," he said.



DECISION: Chancellor Alistair Darling

Stamp duty is currently levied at one per cent of the purchase price on properties worth between £125,000 and £250,000, and three per cent on those worth more than £250,000. For people buying properties worth more than £500,000 the levy is four per cent.

But for more expensive homes priced from £1 million, stamp duty will rise from four to five per cent to fund the new concession for first-time buyers.

The Budget also tackled issues surrounding small businesses and green initiatives.

But its overall content was criticised by MP for Sevenoaks Michael Fallon as being "stand-still".

And Mr Fallon, who is vice-chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, said things would change after the general election in May.

"This Budget is unlikely to change anything. The way forward would have been to come up with a deficit reducing plan."

Mr Fallon said although he supported certain areas, including help for small business, green initiatives and the stamp duty levy, he did not back plans to put all the money from the sale of the Dartford River Crossing into central Government.

"Some should come back to Kent," he said.
• **See the business section for more on the Chancellor's budget.**

PM: Budget will benefit small businesses

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the Tories are against them all. If given the chance they will cut child tax credits and the Child Trust Fund, which are very important for many people in Kent.

"In the recent past we have increased student numbers so there are now more than at any other time in history, and there are also more apprentices and children staying on into further education.

"We've also overseen improvements to the health service

whether its through better cancer treatments or improved GP waiting times, as well as the introduction of free health checks for the over-40s."

This week Chancellor Alistair Darling unveiled the Government's pre-election budget, which included a promise to establish a £1 billion investment bank to back low-carbon industries such as offshore wind.

But some have claimed the Government is giving out mixed messages after awarding a share of £90m to the energy

firm E.ON earlier this month.

The cash is to design new carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, on the Hoo Peninsula, a move heavily opposed by environmentalists.

Mr Brown said: "Our energy policy is very clear indeed in that we will need to draw from a variety of resources in the future, including renewable and nuclear energy, and CCS is going to be a part of that as well.

"It's therefore important we are ready for that."

The PM – who says Kent's small businesses in particular will benefit from the budget thanks to cash flow support and business rate cuts – also had a word of sympathy for the county's cider producers, who are set to suffer from a 10 per cent above inflation tax rise.

He said: "I have a great deal of respect for small producers and think they do a brilliant job, but Alistair Darling had to make a difficult decision about how the misuse of cider is causing problems for our communities."

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Space trip a final wish come true



A LOVING husband is looking forward to seeing his wife's ashes blasted into space – just as she had requested.

Audrey Bates passed away last March, and now husband Geoff has sent off some of her remains for the space launch.

Audrey, 75, (pictured) had been a fan of space for decades. At his home in Dover, Geoff said: "Right back to the days of Yuri Gagarin, the first man in orbit, she has been a space fanatic."



"She followed all the space programs, and really wanted to go into space herself, but of course that was never possible as it costs millions so there was no way she could." The 85-year-old said: "Audrey loved to gaze at the stars. She stayed up to date with all the developments and watched the news when something was on."

"She was desperate go to the Moon." Dover funeral directors Sullivan & Son made all the arrangements.

Paul Sullivan said: "The company that offers this service is Celestis, and they sent me a special pack."

"It was all very easy actually. You place a few grams of the ashes in a small container and send it back using a special courier service. Ceremonies like this are getting more and more popular, but this is the first space one I have done."

The American space burial company charge just over £460 for the ashes to be launched.

Its website says of the Earth Rise Service: "It launches a symbolic portion of cremated remains to space, and after experiencing the zero gravity environment, returns the individual flight capsules to Earth."

"After a successful flight, the Earth Rise payload is recovered, validated as having reached space, and returned to the family or loved one as a keepsake."

The next planned flight, which will include Audrey, is the Pioneer Flight on May 1 from Spaceport America, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Geoff said: "Audrey knew what was coming and asked me to make sure her dream could come true. And then we saw this service in a magazine and I promised there and then."

"Space fascinated her, but I think I'd rather have my feet on the floor."

"I would love to go to the launch but it is a long way and quite expensive, but they will send me a DVD of it, so I am looking forward to that."

Celestis has previously sent the remains of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry and the Enterprise's Scotty, played by James Doohan, into space.

Hi-tech crooks abuse power of technology

By **MARIJKE COX**

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CRIMINAL gangs are using sophisticated new methods to scam people out of money at cashpoints.

Original 'shoulder surfing' techniques used in the past are being replaced by high-tech cameras and video feeds to steal the Pins of unsuspecting victims.

Mobile phones are also being inserted into ATMs to film people inputting their codes.

Stephen Booth, fraud intelligence analyst at Kent Police, said the simplest form of card entrapment is the 'Lebanese Loop', where criminals insert a small device to trap the card in the machine.

Cameras are then used to film the person keying in their Pin. This type of scam is usually carried out when banks are closed.

Mr Booth said: "The victim will normally leave the card thinking it is in the safety of the bank and wait to call them the next day or on the Monday after the weekend."

"But this gives criminals time to remove the card and empty the bank account using the details they have filmed."

Historically, this type of scam saw the criminal 'shoulder surfing' the victim, or hanging around close by, before going to help them when their card 'disappeared'.

Mr Booth said: "They would give advice saying it had happened to their friend and tell them what buttons to push on the keypad."

Sophisticated

"They would usually give a difficult combination, such as to push all four buttons down the side, then the Pin, so they would have to help their victim, giving them access to the Pin information."

"When the victim walked off, they would then take the card and empty the account."

But new sophisticated cameras, hidden in parts of the cash machine, mean thieves do not have to be close to their victim.

They just simply sit back and wait, often watching through a live video feed.

Police caught fraudsters in Sittingbourne last year who had been using the scam across the UK.

Another form of bank card crime which has been happening in towns across Kent over the years is skimming.

Criminals operating in Tonbridge were recently jailed after being found guilty of fraud and police officers also found a card-skimming system on a Barclays Bank ATM in Sevenoaks last October.

Skimming is where gangs place a device in an ATM or card machine in retail outlets which reads the magnetic strip on a bank card and retains the details.

These are then used to clone the card.

This method would be used over a long period, unlike entrapment which targets one card at a time, with hundreds of cards being read before the thieves collect their device. But the sophisticated process, which would often involve high-tech camera equipment linking live video feeds from the ATM to the perpetrators, was scuppered by new banking security.

The introduction of the chip and Pin system meant even if the cloned cards had a magnetic strip with card details and the user had the Pin, without the chip the card was useless.



SAFETY: Cover your Pin when using ATMs

Mr Booth said: "This skimming system could be used abroad in countries without chip and Pin, but people in this country weren't making any money. It means having your card skimmed is less likely now."

But Kent Police still warn the public to be aware of entrapment thieves at ATMs.

Mr Booth said: "If you notice anything unusual about the machine you must report it and when using an ATM try and cover the key pad when you type in your Pin – criminals usually put cameras at the top of the machine."

"Finally, if your card is swallowed by an ATM don't leave it until the next day or Monday, contact your bank immediately."

Mr Booth said although these scams are not common in relation to the hundreds of thousands of people in Kent using cash points, it still happens, and at times people fail to report it.

Anyone with information, or who needs help, can contact the Serious Economic Crime Unit on 01622 654377.

Civil servants bid

ASHFORD'S regeneration boss is pushing Whitehall to relocate thousands of civil servants to the growth town.

In Wednesday's Budget, Chancellor Alistair Darling announced that 15,000 government employees would be moved out of "expensive London offices".

Ashford's Future managing director Judith Armitt said: "We have attracted many national and international companies to the town and we can put forward a compelling case for why we should be considered as an ideal home to more public sector tenants."

Princess flies in

THE Princess Royal flew into Medway on Thursday to officially open MidKent College's new multi-million pound campus.

Princess Anne unveiled a plaque at the state-of-the-art £86 million Gillingham site after being flown in by helicopter.

She said: "I'm always delighted to see this level of investment in colleges which are as close as possible to those who really need it."

To see this clip search 'Alby' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

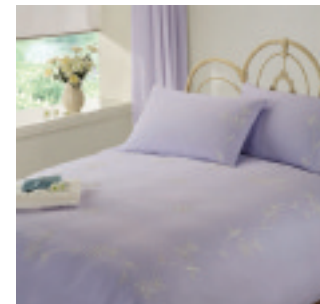


Alby the owl has become a four-wheeled mini-sensation after he discovered he could skateboard

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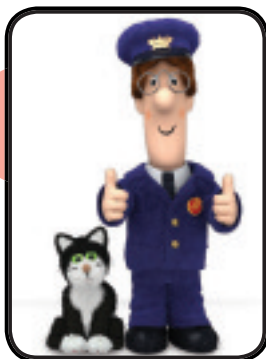
This season at the...

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Gravesend, Kent

Easter fun!



Postman Pat

Tuesday 6 April

£12 adult, £10 child, £40 family

Get ready for whirlwind adventure as Postman Pat and his trusty cat Jess prepare for a 'Very Royal Visit'.

Show times: 1pm



Boogie Pete

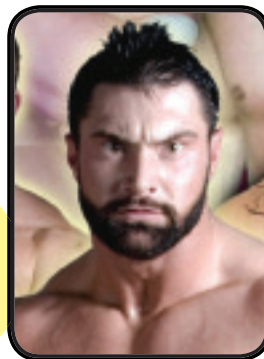
Monday 12 April

£7.50 adult, £6.50 child

Join Pete as he shows you some moves, some magic and some silliness in this fun packed show.

Join in with all your favourite songs and dances including Go, Go Mango and Ocean Motion.

Show time: 2pm



Wrestling

Wednesday 14 April

£12 adult, £10 over 60s and child

All your favourite wrestlers performing amazing moves and stunts.

Show times: 7:30pm



Show Me - Chris and Pui

Thursday 15 April

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May

- 2 Home Grown
- 13 Handful of Henna
- 14 Sister Act (London coach trip)
- 28 Jimmy Jones

June

- 3 Noddy in Toyland
- 15 Gordon Smith
- 25 Jim Davidson

July

- 1 Abba Forever
- 29 Freddie Starr

September

- 1 Joe Longthorne
- 16 The Bon Jovi Experience
- 27 An Evening with Peter Alliss

October

- 1 Elkie Brooks

October continued...

- 3 Colin Fry
- 27 Wrestling
- 26 Sing-a-longa Rocky Horror Show
- 30 Buddy Whittington and his Band

November

- 19 T'Rextasy



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Free holiday show bigger and better every year

THOUSANDS will flock to Kent this weekend to take advantage of the deals on offer at KOS Media's third annual Travel and Leisure Show.

Cruise lines, ferry companies and representatives from the county's biggest tourist attractions will be on hand at Sunday's free event, between 9.30am and 4pm at the Dover Cruise Terminal.

Last year's show was a huge success, with more than 4,000 visitors cramming into the venue to find out more about the attractions available on their doorstep as well as those on the other side of the Channel and beyond.

KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said this year promised to be the best yet.

"After two successful years the show has become the biggest of its kind in the region," she said. "With the variety of local tourist attractions, cruising holidays and



many other leisure opportunities, it provides a great day out for all the family. In previous years many visitors have actually booked their holiday at the show itself or taken advantage of other great exclusive show offers."

As well as the large number of companies exhibiting at the event, there will also be a competition to win a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

There are 31 other fantastic prizes to be won, including an overnight stay with dinner at Canterbury's ABole Hotel, a return Channel crossing provided by Norfolkline, and a family membership with Kent Wildlife Trust.

Children's entertainment, a bar and refreshments will also be available throughout the day. Admission and parking is free, but visitors can beat the queues by registering for fast-track entry.

Visit www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk for more information.

Firm fined over worker's death

AN EMPLOYER has been fined £20,000 after a worker drowned on a quarry site.

A jury at Maidstone Crown Court found Edward James Day, 54 – trading as EJ Construction – of Longfield Road, Longfield, guilty of breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act, and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

The prosecution, brought by Kent Police and the Health and Safety Executive, came after the death on December 5, 2007.

Employee Mark Wilkin was working to extend a finger of land being used as a temporary roadway out into a flooded quarry at Salt Lane, Cliffe. The dumper he was driving came off the roadway, trapping Mr Wilkin under it in the quarry. He drowned at the scene.

HSE inspector Melvyn Stancliffe said: "Had Mr Day ensured the simple measure of providing proper edge protection to the site roads was in place the risk of vehicles leaving the road could have been prevented."

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SOCIAL workers are "just about coping" with the pressures of preventing a Baby P-type tragedy occurring in Kent.

That is the verdict of County Hall's chief executive Peter Gilroy, who has made 19 recommendations on how to improve children's social services after a 16-month review.

Among them is the need for regular updates from senior members of staff, easier computer programmes to cut red tape, and the introduction of new trainee and bursary schemes.

The review was commissioned by Kent County Council in December, 2008, in response to the Baby P scandal that resulted in social workers throughout the UK finding themselves under intense scrutiny.

Its publication comes just days after Rosalind Turner, the head of child protection services, issued a public apology when it emerged a social worker failed to act after being warned about a man who went on to kill his baby daughter.

Christopher Sellman, 24, from Tunbridge Wells, was found guilty of the November, 2008, manslaughter of his 25-day-old daughter, Tiffany, when he appeared at Maidstone Crown Court last week.

In the review, Mr Gilroy wrote: "As we know from recent events, even when a single human error is made it can have tragic consequences. It is at times like these we need to be most supportive, as well as publicly standing up to be held to account where systemic failure or professional incompetence or negligence are the causes. We – all of us – need to bear in mind that social workers are dealing with complex, dysfunctional and at times dangerous individuals and families. It is not a job for the faint-hearted."

Seventeen-month-old Baby P – who has since been named as Peter Connolly – died

County's social workers 'facing huge pressures'



TRAGIC DEATH: Baby Peter Connolly

after sustained abuse at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and their lodger in Haringey, north London, in August, 2007.

According to the NSPCC, an average of 67 children in England and Wales die at the hands of another person every year, with about 38,000 youngsters on child protection plans at any one time. Mr Gilroy's review reports that the rate of violent child deaths in Kent between 1997 and 2009 was six per million of the population, compared with 17 per million nationally.

He wrote: "Complacency is the enemy of the maintenance of high practice standards."

"Constant vigilance and the pursuit of improvement are essential – reliance on good practice standards, policies and procedures can only give solid assurance if compliance with them is diligently monitored."

Last week, key national reports on safeguarding vulnerable children were published by the Government, including its response to the Lord Laming inquiry and the first annual report to Parliament by the chief adviser on the safety of children, Sir Roger Singleton.

Mr Gilroy said these reports came too late for them to be referred to in his own review, and has therefore advised the main messages from them be analysed along with his recommendations for improvement.

He wrote: "I am pleased to commend my report and its recommendations to the county council for its consideration. It portrays a service that it just about coping with some difficult pressures, but with its morale intact."

"My recommendations about how arrangements might be improved, as befitting my professional background as a social worker, are offered as those offered by a critical friend."

The review will go before KCC's cabinet meeting on Monday, and full council on Thursday, April 1.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Transformation promises jobs

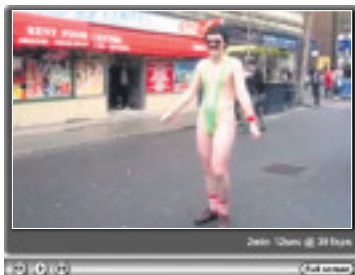
THE £2.5 billion transformation of Ashford town centre took a big step forward this week with the appointment of Stanhope plc to develop a 6.65-acre vacant brownfield site.

Elwick Place runs along the south side of the town's Shared Space scheme and opposite the International Station.

Stanhope has signed a development agreement with landowner the South East England Development Agency to transform the area into a mix of retail, leisure, residential and business space with the potential to create up to 500 jobs.

The developer will now prepare a master plan and submit it for public consultation and planning approval. Work on the first phase could start next year.

To view, search 'mankini' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



James Parker walks a mile through Maidstone town centre dressed in a Borat-style mankini in aid of Sport Relief. He completed the charity challenge after more than 5,000 people joined a Facebook group.



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THE INTERVIEW



BY JANE CONNOLLY

Musical youth sounding out a New World

YOUNG musicians from across the county will be blowing their own trumpets in a series of concerts next month.

Kent Music's youth orchestras and choirs present a weekend of American-themed events at two Chatham venues, giving audiences the chance to see tomorrow's stars in action. As chief executive of Kent Music, Peter Bolton knows people will be impressed by the talent of these promising young musicians.

"There seems to be a preconception that youth performance is not as good as adult, but you can pull some stunning performances from young people," he said.

"There is more of a raw passion from them because often they are doing these pieces for the first time. I've heard them play pieces that I thought were quite ambitious, but they really go to it with passion."

On Friday, April 9, Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra perform an evening of Afro-Cuban and Latin American music at the Brook Theatre and they will be joined by special guests Snowboy and the Latin Section, some of the country's leading artists in the field.

The following night, Kent County Youth Orchestra tackles Dvorak's New World Symphony at the Central Theatre; and on Sunday, April 11, Kent Youth Choir and Kent Youth Wind Orchestra join forces at the same venue to pay tribute to Broadway.

"We're quite a big and diverse organisation, so it's quite difficult for people to see the many things we do," Mr Bolton said. "We refer to our

county groups as our shop window and we put them in little 'shops' around the county, but this is a chance to put them into one department store and show what we can do."

Kent Music offers music and singing courses for children of pre-school age upwards, with intermediate levels and feeder groups leading to the county-level orchestras and choirs. As a former concert promoter, Mr Bolton found that the move into music education opened his eyes to the potential of Kent's young musicians.

"As a member of the audience, you're going to get a really fresh approach and high quality, because we have some really good musicians in these groups," he said.

"Some will go on to become professional musicians and in two or three years you will see them in orchestras around the country."

As well as teaching young people to play instruments and sing, Mr Bolton believes Kent Music offers a whole lot more.

"People will join something like the Kent Youth County Orchestra and they might be in it for seven or eight years. That's a significant part of growing up and they develop long-term, strong friendships," he said.

"As someone who went through various music projects, I know it teaches you a lot about life, not just playing an instrument – about discipline in your life and about forming friendships in groups. It also brings a lot of confidence, which I think is very important for young people."

To book, call 01634 338338 or visit www.whatsonmedway.co.uk. To find out more about Kent Music, visit www.kent-music.com.



IN TUNE: Kent Music's Peter Bolton is impressed by the young players' raw passion

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COUNTY Hall's transport chief has admitted he is "concerned" about the effects on commuters of Southeastern's new timetable.

The train operator promised more choice and less overcrowding when it launched its new schedule in early December, but passengers claim the changes have actually led to more delays, fewer London-bound services, and busier carriages.

And now Kent County Council's cabinet member for transport Cllr Nick Chard has revealed he is monitoring what the firm does to alleviate the problems.

The new timetable was one of the matters discussed at Thursday's first-ever rail summit, which brought together representatives from Southeastern, Network Rail and passenger groups.

Cllr Chard said: "We are concerned because our residents are concerned. That's one of the reasons why we organised this summit, because it was an opportunity for rail users to have their say directly to Southeastern and for them to respond in a public forum."

"When the timetable was being revised we did make a point of supporting the retention of the Cannon Street service on the Maidstone line, but we will form a view on the overall picture once we have listened to what everyone has to say. The summit is about improving the communication between commuters and service providers."

The new timetable was launched to coincide with the start of High Speed 1, which for an extra £8 per journey provides London commuters with quicker journey times than ever before.

Last month, commuters who signed a petition against the changes told KOS Media the 140mph trains were underused because they only reached the higher

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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speeds at Ebbsfleet and their only London destination was St Pancras. However, Cllr Chard rejected the criticism.

He said: "In terms of reduced journey times – which is what a lot of people look for – it's been an outstanding success."

"It's here to stay and will change people's lives for the better, particularly in the eastern parts of Kent."

"Of course there will be people who think the premium is too high, but that's their choice to make."

The rail summit was organised by KCC as part of the ongoing Growth Without Gridlock consultation, which aims to transform transport within the county through road and rail developments. Among the speakers were KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter and Tonbridge and Malling Tory MP Sir John Stanley.

Other issues discussed included how best to capitalise on the forthcoming Crossrail and Thameslink rail services, as well as what improvements could be made to existing services and stations.

Cllr Chard said: "I think rail travel will be vital for the future in Kent, and not just for the commuters travelling to London."

"If we can continue to improve services, stations and journey times, trains will become more and more the main mode of transport for people in this county."



SUMMIT: Transport chief Nick Chard

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Train timetable concerns raised as summit plots the way ahead

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A royal meeting

SOLDIER Steven Furminger welcomed a Royal visitor into the ranks when the Countess of Wessex dropped in on his Germany training base.

The Rifleman, part of the 5th Battalion The Rifles, took part in an infantry attack demonstration before being formally introduced to Her Royal Highness.

Rifleman Furminger, 20, from Gillingham, who served in Iraq last year, said: "It's good to get to know and have the Countess of Wessex as our Royal Colonel."

Help for children

VICTIM Support volunteer Lance Fermor and a group of eight friends are set for a gruelling 157-mile charity bike ride.

Lance, a haulage company shift manager from Ditton, will be cycling from Maidstone to Bristol to raise money for the Kent Child Witness Service.

The 50-year-old, who is hoping to raise £4,000 during the event on June 12, said: "We're all training hard, but we're not 100 per cent sure we can do it. That's the challenge."

The volunteers who work at Kent Child Witness Service support and prepare young witnesses for court appearances.

See www.justgiving.com/Lance-Fermor0 to sponsor Lance.

Easter craft fair

AN EASTER craft and gift fair is being held at Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre from Monday, March 29, until Saturday, April 3.

The malls will be filled with speciality stalls selling handmade crafts and quality gifts, from handmade chocolates to decorated goose eggs.

RSPB artist of the year Ian Kent will also be exhibiting his work.

Big names in musical entertainment enticed to theatre

First steps of a new dance

By **JENNY ARMSTRONG**

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THE new Marlowe Theatre could be a base for a leading national dance company and will attract the biggest musicals and performing artists, says its director.

The theatre's director Mark Everett said: "I am speaking with a leading UK dance company which may come down to Canterbury, probably in early 2012.

"They will base themselves here rather than in London and create a new piece in the second space, which they will then premier in the main house.

"While they are here they can do masterclasses, lectures and open classes with young people who are doing dance and want to go a bit further. Not only will they do a performance where people watch, but they will be working within our area to enhance our city. That I think is an excellent model."

The old Marlowe Theatre, which had one auditorium seating 1,000 people, closed a year ago and was demolished to make way for the new theatre which is now being built

thanks to a Canterbury council initiative.

Unlike the 1930s building, the new plans involve a bigger main house with 1,200 seats and a second performance area that will seat 150 people.

According to Mr Everett the second performance space will enable residents to get more involved in making their own works.

Mr Everett said: "There has been very little opportunity for local people and for young people to actually make theatre and to try things in the past. We aspire to become a centre for local music. Although there are pubs where new bands can get together and so on, there is not much more support.

"To provide a good space for rehearsal is a way forward which is much needed."

And the extra capacity will mean the theatre can host the biggest musicals, classical acts and major solo performing artists.

The theatre director said: "Certainly the major opera, ballet and dance companies will now come to perform here."

A year on from the old Marlow Theatre closing, the theatre's head of culture Janice McGuinness has said the new building is still on time and on budget.

She said: "It is going to be an amazing piece of architecture for Canterbury and a landmark on the skyline, but the most excit-



NEW FACE: Construction is well under way

ing thing is what is going to be inside it."

The theatre's trustees have £2.5 million left to raise of the £27.5m cost of the theatre, with generous six-figure sums from local businesses a big help.

Peter Williams, chairman of the theatre's development trust, said: "When you look at this building it restores your faith in human nature. The people of Canterbury, and in fact Kent, have been very generous."

Currently the colonnades are being put up at the front of the theatre building, the roof will go on in the next two months and builders will be topping-out in June. The theatre will be finished in October, 2011.

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Hilary's challenge to blow away prejudice

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A QUADRIPLÉGIC woman who sailed around the UK using just the power of her breath to control her yacht is set to take on another adventure.

Hilary Lister is to tackle the waters of the Middle East and sail solo around the Kingdom of Bahrain.



It will raise awareness and funds for the disabled charity Bahrain Mobility International, known as BMI.

The 37-year-old Oxford graduate from Faversham is paralysed from the neck down. She started using a wheelchair at 15 because of a progressive neurological disorder called reflex sympathetic dystrophy.

She finished the gruelling 14-month sail around the UK last August, becoming the first disabled woman to make the trip solo.

She started and ended in Dover, taking in

the coasts of Cornwall, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and then the east coast of England.

The new challenge gets under way next month, with Hilary using her specially adapted 20ft yacht Arty. It is controlled by sipping and puffing on three straws, linked to an innovative control system.

The journey around the coastline of Bahrain is approximately 100 miles and is expected to take Hilary four days. She will set out from Amwaj Marina on April 13 and sail clockwise.

She wants the voyage to challenge people's views on disability and raise cash for BMI, which provides rehabilitation for disabled people throughout Bahrain.

Hilary said: "I am really looking forward to my visit to Bahrain and embarking on this exciting challenge."

"Before I was introduced to sailing in 2003, my life had reached rock bottom – I was in constant pain and even contemplated taking my own life."

"Since then, I have discovered a new sense of freedom on the water, which has enabled me to achieve things I never thought possible."

"I hope my journey around Bahrain will encourage both disabled and able-bodied people to pursue their own dreams and help raise much-needed funds for Bahrain Mobility International."

Her remarkable story of courage started when she was 11 and felt pain in her knees.

Reflex sympathetic dystrophy is an incurable disease that eventually led to her losing the use of all her limbs.

Hilary achieved a 2:1 degree in biochemistry after dictating her papers while an epidural drip was attached to her spine.

Adel Sultan, vice president of BMI said: "Hilary's courage and determination is very humbling and we are all very excited about meeting her and welcoming her to Bahrain."

Natural beauty

THE latest issue of The Orchid newspaper will be available this week.

It will be packed with news and views of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Orchid can be picked up free of charge at various outlets, pubs, guest houses, libraries, restaurants, and attractions across the Downs, or read online at www.kentdowns.org.uk.

This issue is themed around woodland, a key feature of the Kent Downs AONB, and tells readers about the historic context but also bring things up to date by discussing the impact of climate change and wood products.

There are also lots of suggestions for ideas of places to visit.

For more about the Kent Downs AONB visit the website or call 01303 815170.



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American recognition for trio of HIV drug scientists

THREE Kent-based scientists behind a breakthrough HIV treatment have been handed a major global award for their work.

They have worked at Pfizer in Sandwich for 11 years to come up with a medicine called Selzentry.

Now the work of Tony Wood, Elna van der Ryst, and Manos Perros has been recognised after they picked up the 2010 Discoverers Award. This is the highest honour given to scientists by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

The trio's new class of drug is unlike most HIV therapies in that rather than attacking the virus, it blocks its entry into human cells.

It has been effective in clinical trials among patients who had run out of options because they were resistant to or intolerant of all other available therapies. It was the first new oral medication for HIV in 10 years when it was approved in 2007.

The scientists were given the award at a luncheon at PhRMA's annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia, near Washington DC.

They were presented by PhRMA president

Billy Tauzin and two-time Olympic gold medallist Greg Louganis who when he was diagnosed with HIV/Aids in 1988 was considered to have been put under a death sentence.

He told the audience that he was prepared to go home, lock the door and wait to die. Instead, his life was saved through new medicines, including Selzentry.

Dr Wood said: "I feel incredibly privileged to be part of the team that was in the right place at the right time to convert science into something of value to mankind."

"We not only found a medicine, but firsts in many ways in terms of science."

And Dr van der Ryst, who began researching HIV after the deaths of both friends and patients in her native South Africa, said her years working on the new drug were the most exciting of her life.

Dr Perros added: "It doesn't take tens of thousands or millions of patients to make the work feel worthwhile."

"To sit with one person who survived and is healthy because of medicine you worked on is a tremendous feeling of satisfaction."

DETERMINED:
Hilary Lister has already sailed the coast of Britain on her own, she's now taking on a new challenge to raise awareness of the charity Bahrain Mobility International in the boat she controls with straws



Kent soldiers of all ranks among those commended for bravery in Afghanistan

By **MARIJKE COX**

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AN OFFICER who led 1,106 soldiers in one of the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan is among 146 to have been commended in the military's operational awards.

Colonel Robert Thomson MBE was commended for displaying "exceptional powers of tactical leadership" and given a Distinguished Service Order, one of the highest honours to be awarded.

The 43-year-old, from Sevenoaks, and former commanding officer of 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was instrumental in forcing the Taliban out of the populated areas of Sangin's Green Zone, allowing Afghan governance to take over. Despite this success, the six-month tour led to a great number of casualties, with 23 soldiers killed and 84 wounded.

A citation read out at the Ministry of Defence ceremony in London touched upon the suffering of Col Thomson's troops, but highlighted his success: "Collectively, 2 Rifles have suffered greatly against a brutal enemy and the psychological pressure has been immense. Yet through outstanding tactical acumen, exemplary actions, and a calm and compassionate style of leadership, Col Thomson has triumphed. His men have complete faith in him. His officers and men would

Thomson leads the way for our frontline heroes

follow him anywhere... and they have."

Col Thomson's team operated in intense heat with foot patrols carried out daily in minefields with improvised explosive devices (IED) and constant pressure from the enemy.

The father-of-five, who had already been awarded an MBE, said it was a huge honour to receive a DSO, but not just for him.

"It's an award for all 1,110 men in the battle group and that's how I see it for the 25 different cap badges represented in that team, but also for the families back home," he said.

His feat was honoured alongside other exceptional servicemen, who were described as "utterly remarkable" by General Sir Peter Wall, Commander-in-Chief Land Forces.

Major Jo Butterfill, 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was also commended and presented with the Military Cross for personal gallantry and "inspirational leadership" while serving in Afghanistan.

The 35-year-old, from Ramsgate, was the commander of A Company when they cleared 31 IEDs in just 24 hours. But the troops suffered a number of casualties after facing a hostile enemy using snipers and IEDs.

A citation read at the awards ceremony stated: "Major Butterfill was always at the

point of the spear. He personally endured the same fearful risks as his Fusiliers and was in range of the IED that killed one of his sergeants."

The citation also explained how the father-of-two established a new Afghan National Army patrol base to secure the area. "Major Butterfill has been undaunted in taking the fight to the enemy and his personal example to his

Fusiliers has been inspirational," read the citation. "His courageous actions, reflecting his position as an inspirational leader of men under the most testing of combat situations stand out."

Major Butterfill paid tribute to the soldiers who served under his command: "Although individuals get medals, they are only gained with the work and support of the whole team," he said. "The award is really for the whole of the Company, which worked so incredibly hard during six dangerous and difficult months."

Rifleman Paul Jacobs, of 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was another Kent soldier to be commended. The 21-year-old, from Ramsgate, was awarded the George Cross for outstand-



BRAVERY: Col Robert Thomson OBE

ing bravery after displaying "sheer personal courage and startling determination, selflessness, devotion to duty, and dedication to his comrades."

Rifleman Jacobs was seriously injured while on patrol in Helmand Province when another soldier stepped on an IED.

The blast killed his comrade and left him with multiple injuries, but he continued to tend to the fallen soldier. While doing so, he saw an unexploded IED and moved back to cover another soldier who was killed in the explosion. His citation stated: "His dedication to his comrades was faultless."

Four soldiers received Mentions in Despatches: Acting Corporal Buddhahadur Gurung,

Rifleman Prakash Pun and Lance Corporal Tilakkumar Rai, all from 1st Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles at Shorncliffe, Folkestone; and Sergeant Terence Lowe, from the Operational Training and Advisory Group at Shorncliffe.

Lieutenant Aloysius Connolly, from the 1st Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles, was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.



Major Butterfill



Rifleman Jacobs

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Fund's anthology straight from the heart

WIVES and partners of soldiers serving on the frontline have turned to poetry to help them cope with the absence of their loved ones.

And to benefit the troops in Afghanistan their poems have now been made into a book, 200 Miles 3,500 Days - An Anthology of Poems, with money raised through sales

going to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The heart-wrenching but often witty poems started on an online forum where wives, partners and children of soldiers from 27 Squadron RAF Regiment shared their fears.

Gail Wilson, from Dover, was one of those who turned to the forum to help cope with the absence of her husband, Neil.

She admitted writing poems helped her get through the hard times when she was feeling worried or down. In a foreword to the book, Commandant General of the Regiment, Air Commodore Steve Abbott, said: "These poems rightly tell a story that those involved will not tell themselves."

"The poems speak of love, of pride, of heroism and, of course, pain and sorrow."

The soldiers have now returned to the UK from their six-month tour of duty at Kandahar air base. The book is on sale on the RAF Benevolent Fund website www.rafbf.org priced £6.99, of which £5.49 will be donated to the charity.

The RAF Benevolent Fund provides financial, practical and emotional support to people in the Royal Air Force, including help with bereavement, injury, disability and financial hardship.

Heeding the call

MINISTER for Veterans Kevan Jones MP is calling on the public to consider joining the South Eastern Veterans' Advisory and Pensions Committee.

Appointments for the voluntary positions are now under way, with the MoD inviting applications. The committee's job is to promote the interests and welfare of veterans and their families across the South East, including Kent.

Applicants need good communication skills and an understanding of Government support for veterans.

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KENT ON SATURDAY

KENT ON SUNDAY

while wounded comrades take up 1,000-mile challenge to aid fellow victims

FOUR bomb disposal experts injured when a Taliban device exploded in Helmand Province are cycling almost 1,000 miles to raise money for their limbless comrades, writes **Marijke Cox**.

Two of the group are still in rehabilitation for their injuries, and the others have only just been given the all-clear by doctors after the explosion in July last year.

But Corporal Richard McKinnon, Lance Corporal David Timmins, L/Cpl James Marsh and Cpl Jonny Wallace – all part of the 11 EOD Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps – are determined to raise £10,000 on a Land's End to John O'Groats ride.

Their comrade Captain Wayne Owers, who was unhurt in the incident, and Capt Peter Graham, who was the Casualty Visiting Officer after the explosion, are also taking part in June. Cpl McKinnon said money will go to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen Association (Blesma). The 22-year-old, who was born in Dover and lives in Folkestone, said: "Our focus for this ride is Sapper Matt Weston, who was a member of our team in Afghanistan. He became a triple amputee after an incident last July."

The 20-year-old lost both legs and his right arm in an explosion while on patrol in Afghanistan. He was saved by L/Cpl David Timmins – part of the cycling crew – who

Riding to the rescue



DANGEROUS WORK:
The bomb disposal team in Afghanistan



WOUNDED: Corporal Richard McKinnon

was injured in another blast just two weeks later. L/Cpl Timmins lost an eye, suffered damaged hearing and his vital organs were punctured by shrapnel.

Three of his comrades, who are also among the six taking part in the cycling challenge, were also hurt, suffering horrific injuries from shrapnel.

"We're not doing the ride in sections, we're going to cycle non-stop and complete the whole distance," said Cpl McKinnon.

"Jonny and David are still undergoing treatment for their injuries, so will be followed by a back-up vehicle.

"If they need to stop, they can, and will pick up when they feel able. Our aim is to raise £10,000."

Cpl McKinnon, who suffered an eye injury, said the explosion brought the group even closer together.

"We'll be able to complete this challenge," he said. "When you're on the job you're constantly doing physical work and building your strength up.

"Then suddenly something like this explosion happens and it changes everything. We want to prove we can do this, despite what happened out there."

On their Just Giving site, Cpl Jonny Wallace, who suffered a shattered leg, said: "We worked closely as a team in Afghanistan and would like to continue in that vein to raise funds for a cause close to our hearts. The ride would present a challenge to each of us normally, but for some, including me, it presents an even larger challenge due to my injuries."

All members of the team received military awards for their work. To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/Felix-End2End.

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Cleared councillor speaks of relief but corrupt developer warned to expect jail term

A PROPERTY developer faces prison after a jury convicted him of corruption, while a district councillor walked free, **writes Ian Read.**

Millionaire Julian Brealy, 51, of Mandarin Lane, Herne Bay, will appear for sentencing at Maidstone Crown Court on April 13.

He was ordered to surrender his passport and must not apply for any travel documents. Judge David Griffith-Jones said he was considering a custodial sentence.

Earlier Canterbury city councillor Roger Matthews was acquitted after a three-week trial. Both men had pleaded not guilty.

The court was told Cllr Matthews, former deputy leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Canterbury City Council, was allowed to live rent-

free for six years in Brealy's flat in Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, while owing £34,000.

A confidential planning document, intended for councillors, was also found in Brealy's office.

By a 10 to two majority, the jury decided Brealy could have used the threat of instant repayment to get Cllr Matthews to influence planning decisions.

They unanimously found the councillor not guilty, despite hearing evidence from Mark Ellender, head of the city council's legal services department, who said Cllr Matthews was warned about his rent arrears.

As a result, the councillor was ordered not to discuss planning matters with developers unless accompanied by a council officer.

In his defence Cllr Matthews argued he had been too embarrassed by his debt to come clean, but

had never let it affect any decision concerning council matters.

After the trial, Cllr Matthews, who represents Greenhill and Broomfield, said: "There's never been a single instance when I favoured anyone or acted improperly as a councillor. I just want to get on with my life."

Since the charges were brought Cllr Matthews has sat as an independent, although he was given support by local Lib Dems.

He told our sister paper Yourcanterbury the pressure had been difficult to bear with the threat of prison hanging over him, yet he had enjoyed support from local people. He also said he had no plans to stand down as a councillor.

Cllr Matthews said: "It's been a difficult time. I'm relieved that it's over. I've always done my utmost to fight for the people of Herne Bay and will continue to do so."

MOTORISTS have been urged to help crack down on yobs hurling missiles at vehicles from road bridges before someone is seriously injured or killed.

A brick was dropped on to the windscreen of a car travelling through Dunton Green on the M26, near Sevenoaks, last week. The driver, who escaped unhurt, saw three people on the bridge above the motorway.

Kent Police want to hear from anyone with information about the attack.

New research has shown that one in five motorists in the South East have suffered from a missile hitting their vehicle. Seventy-five per cent of road users in the region said they had seen youths throwing objects into the road during the last five years.

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Saga Independent Living provides high quality care for people who live in their own homes and was originally available to people living in Folkestone, Canterbury and Ashford. As a result of its success, the service has expanded and now operates in all of Kent including Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Dartford and the surrounding areas.

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As Mrs Welman was trapped in the garden, unable to reply, the operator contacted Mrs Welman's daughter who immediately went to the house. Mrs Welman was taken to hospital with a broken hip and a few days later had a hip replacement. She says,

"Without my personal alarm, I would have been left out in the cold and in a lot of pain until I was found – which might not have been until next morning. I believe Saga SOS saved my life!"



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For more information about Saga Independent Living or Saga SOS, call **0800 068 8583** stating **RP3025**. Alternatively, visit saga.co.uk.

*Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

SSA3939

SAGA
Caring done properly

Cage fighting gang jailed after police chase led to cocaine haul

A GROUP of Kent men from the ultra-violent sport of cage fighting have ended up behind a different set of bars after they became a gang of drug dealers, *writes Chris Murphy*.

The seven men have been sent to jail for a total of 46 years.

A court was told they ran a highly lucrative cocaine and cannabis-dealing empire.

Kingston Crown Court was told they were caught at the end of an operation organised by officers from the Metropolitan Police Service's Central Task Force, known as SCD7.

The court heard that on March 4, 2008, officers tried to stop a BMW on the QE2 bridge in Dartford. The car rammed through a toll-booth to escape, but was eventually stopped on the M25.

It was driven by trainee cage fighter Stacey Atkins, 32. Paul Stockton, 44, a trainer in the sport and former boxer was in the passenger seat. Atkins was carrying a 'wrap' of 70 per cent pure cocaine in his pocket and £990 in cash. A further £32,000 stuffed into a carrier bag and hidden in a compartment of the car's boot was also seized.

Atkins fingerprints were on the bag.

Officers raided his home and found a digital safe containing more money, and in an outbuilding was a hydroponics system for the production of cannabis plants.



MEMBERS NAMED AND SHAMED

■ STACEY Atkins (pictured left), 32, of Dale End, Crayford, was charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, money laundering, cultivating cannabis, actual bodily harm relating to the use of force on the occupant of the car he pushed through the toll booth at the QE2 bridge, and dangerous driving.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply. The remainder of the charges will lie on file and he was jailed for nine years.

■ PAUL Stockton, 44, of Hollingbourne Tower, Westwell Close, Orpington, was charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, money laundering and conspiracy to supply cannabis.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply with the other charges laying on file and he was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in prison.

■ THOMAS Atkins, 26, of Dale Road, Crayford was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, con-

spiracy to supply class A drugs and got eight years.

■ DAVID Tyler, 36, a DJ of Southend Close, Eltham, was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, conspiracy to supply class A drugs and jailed for seven years three months.

■ SEAN Kelly, 23, of no fixed abode was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, conspiracy to supply class A drugs and got five years.

■ ANTHONY Neal, 40, of Beverley Avenue, Sidcup, was found guilty of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and got eight years.

■ JOHN O'Donoghue, 50, of Astra Drive, Dartford, was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and assisting an offender.

He pleaded guilty to assisting an offender. The conspiracy charge is to lie on file. He was sentenced to eight months, suspended for 18 months.

At Stockton's home officers found high purity cocaine in a safe, along with more money.

On July 3, 2008, police raided an address in Beverley Avenue, Sidcup, that was believed to be used by the gang as a cocaine factory – where high purity cocaine was cut with other substances and wrapped for sale.

The property was owned by jobless engi-

neer Anthony Neal, 39. Inside they found three men – cage fighter Thomas Atkins, 26, brother of Stacey; Sean Kelly, 23; and David Tyler, 36, along with more than 240 'wraps' of cocaine. Atkins was carrying £1,740.

Concealed under floorboards was a digital safe containing 28 bags, each containing 1oz of cocaine, along with £670 in cash.

A car was also found at the address.

Stacey Atkins was arrested at a motorhome in a holiday park in Whitstable, after he failed to return on bail.

John O'Donoghue, 50, was also there and was arrested for assisting an offender.

In total, police seized drugs worth £60,000 and £40,000 in cash.

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Kent Police join colleagues from other forces in exercise aimed at eliminating the

A restraining hand for long arm of the law

THE terms 'heavy-handed' and 'aggressive' will forever be linked with the way Kent Police handled the now infamous Kingsnorth Climate Camp of August, 2008.

Much continues to be said about how poorly managed the 10-day demonstration was, and how angry the anti-coal demonstrators were at what they saw as a breach of their right to protest.

It should therefore come as no surprise that the force – eager to avoid yet another public relations nightmare – has placed a new emphasis on being friendly to the public, as was demonstrated at last week's public order exercise at an "undisclosed military location" in the Kent countryside.

And despite claiming the training day was based on similar clashes that took place at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire last year, it was obvious valuable lessons have also been learned from Kingsnorth.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams, who oversaw the exercise, said: "We tried to

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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paint a scenario that allowed the officers to understand that the public has the right to a peaceful protest and one that allowed them to open a dialogue with the protestors, or at least try to.

"We are representatives of the public and we need to acknowledge that. If the public feel they have a need to protest, they should be treated no differently than our parents or our children. Opening up a dialogue with people allows you to negotiate with them and understand them."

Attended by about 150 police officers from six forces, it was clear that those who took part in the training exercise had received clear instructions to be polite yet assertive



IN FORCE: Police officers and vehicles make their way to the mock demonstration site



PROTEST TARGET: The 'power station'

with the protestors, and to use force only as a last resort. In fact, there was little to get excited about as officers chatted with the 'demonstrators' – really a group of about 100 recruits from the Kent Police College in Maidstone – asking them where they had come from, but

never once why they were there.

There was also no sign of the stop-and-search tactics that had angered so many innocent environmentalists at Kingsnorth.

ACC Adams said: "In terms of opening a dialogue with the protestors, I think the day went extremely well.

"It allowed us to work on some of the recommendations made in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary [which followed the Kingsnorth Climate Camp], such as making sure there is a very clear command and control in place.

"It was also very clear about people's right to protest and that officers should only ever arrest somebody if a law has been broken."

Officers who took part in the training exercise were told beforehand that their ultimate goal was to prevent the protestors gaining access to the 'power station', which was 'played' by a breezeblock hut.

The scenario involved demonstrators from two separate campaign groups attempting to

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mistakes of Kingsnorth Climate Camp



COP OUT: Protestors – in reality recruits from Kent Police College – play their part

gain access to the site from different directions, with the police having to make sure they were in the right place at the right time to prevent them.

Dog-handlers and mounted officers were also present but did not take part. Aside from some slight pushing and shoving, the officers had relatively few problems to contend with.

However, ACC Adams said it was still a valuable experience.

He said: "What you have to ask yourselves is, did the protestors equip themselves well enough to give the police a challenge? I think they did. They were certainly vocal enough and organised enough, and capable of posing a challenge regardless of how many of them there were.

"The 'protestors' are all ambitious recruits and this gave them the opportunity to find out what a protest looks like and also an opportunity to see how their colleagues might react."



HIGH MINDED: One 'protestor' locked himself to a tripod in a bid to test officers

New machines deliver pinpoint radiotherapy

CANCER patients in Kent will be among the first in the country to benefit from new technology delivering a more precise form of radiotherapy.

The Kent Oncology Centre – run by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – has spent £4.7 million on two RapidArc machines that allow doctors to target tumours with pinpoint accuracy.

Patients suffering from prostate and head and neck cancers will be the first to receive the new treatment when it becomes available in September.

Efficient

Clinical director Stewart Coltart said: "This is exciting news for the Kent Oncology Centre and the nearly two million people we serve.

"The machines are able to target tumours more precisely, offering patients faster and more efficient treatments.

"This is international standard care at its very best and it is happening right here."

The machine rotates around the patient during the treatment. As well as being more

accurate, the machines – which will be installed at Maidstone Hospital and Kent and Canterbury Hospital – also produce varying doses of radiation depending on their distance from the tumour as they move around the patient. Healthy tissue is better protected as a result and patients receive a faster, more effective treatment.

Radiotherapy machines now used by surgeons target tumours using a complex sequence of fixed beams from multiple angles.

Dr Coltart said the new technology was yet more good news for Kent and Canterbury's radiotherapy department, which is receiving a £2.5m refurbishment.

He added: "This is a further sign of the commitment we are making to cancer care in Kent.

"We welcome this additional good news for patients being treated at Kent and Canterbury Hospital and its clinicians."

The new machines have been developed by Varian Medical Systems of California.

Hospitals in London, Ipswich and the Wirral have also purchased the technology.

Sir Terry at city status seminar

MEDWAY'S on-going campaign for city status took a leap forward on Wednesday, with the bid's leaders meeting in Chatham for a conference.

The Making of Medway seminar at the St George's Centre, Chatham Maritime, was attended by leading architects, designers and regeneration chiefs.

Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "It's the perfect backdrop for us to outline our intention to bid for city status in

2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

"We believe we have the strongest possible case.

"We are a city in all but name."

More than 200 people signed up to attend the event, which saw internationally renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell talk about his plans for Medway's future.

The bid comes after two previous failed attempts to achieve city status – in 2000 and 2002.



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By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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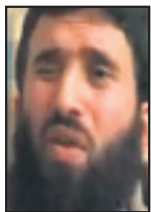
FORMER Guantánamo detainee Omar Deghayes paid a visit to Kent to help fulfil a promise made to fellow inmates after six years of captivity.

The Libyan-born British citizen claims he was blinded, beaten and sexually assaulted at the notorious American detention camp between 2002 and 2007, despite having never been charged with an offence.

He is now one of six former Guantánamo detainees who are suing the British government and its intelligence agencies for alleged complicity in their abuse while behind bars.

Mr Deghayes is also featured in a new documentary entitled *Outside the Law*, which was introduced by co-director Andy Worthington at the University of Kent last week.

He said: "I already knew Andy and knew he had studied the subject deeply. He didn't just



PLEDGE: Omar Deghayes

Speaking out after Guantánamo hell

take what the Americans and the British government told him and he really made an effort to find the truth. When I came home from Guantánamo I was silent for more than a year, but when Andy told me about this film I decided to speak to him because I knew he would use the information in a better way.

"I felt that I hadn't done enough for the people still inside the camp, who I promised I would do my best to help once released.

"I blamed myself for not sticking to that promise earlier, but I'm hoping to make up for it now by spreading the word about what goes on inside places like Guantánamo."

Born in 1969, Mr Deghayes and his family regularly went on holiday to Saltdean, near Brighton, until they moved to England permanently in 1980 after the execution of his father, a vocal opponent of Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. After graduating with a law

degree from the University of Wolverhampton, Mr Deghayes went travelling and eventually settled in Afghanistan, where he met his wife and brought up their son. However, the family fled to Pakistan after the 9/11 terror attacks on the United States, which turned out to be the worst decision they would ever make.

Mr Deghayes said: "After September 11, bounty hunters were being paid a lot of money for any Arabs living in Pakistan, especially those who had been in Afghanistan. Many people were rounded up and handed over to the Americans, but most were never convicted.

"Guantánamo was a cruel and barbaric



ORDEAL: Camp in Guantánamo

place. The guards tried their best to humiliate inmates and break us down, stupidly thinking they could get more information that way.

"I lost the sight in one eye and they broke my nose and my ribs. I've had operations on my fingers, which they crushed in a door.

"I've been beaten more times than I can remember and was put through psychological and sexual abuse as well. They were suspicious of anything and everything, and always thought there was something to be found.

"Most of us couldn't see how we would ever be released, but I never lost hope."

Despite still struggling to come to terms with his experiences, Mr Deghayes says he is determined to spread the word so others do not have to suffer.

He added: "President Obama promised he would shut Guantánamo but it hasn't happened and there are still innocent people locked up. It's sad to see it dragging on.

"But Guantánamo is only one prison and we fear that if he shuts that, people will forget about the others. That's one of the reasons why I'm involved with the documentary, because we don't want the prisoners to be moved from one camp to another."

• Visit www.andyworthington.co.uk for more information on *Outside the Law - Stories from Guantánamo*.



GREEN NEWS: Chart on leaflet

Greens and UKIP clash in bar chart dispute

AN INCORRECT bar chart has sparked a pre-election squabble between two of the smaller political parties.

Canterbury's Green Party candidate Geoff Meaden has come under fire for distributing a newsletter that suggests his group finished second in the city – behind the Conservatives – with 15.5 per cent of the vote in last year's European Union elections.

In reality, the UK Independence Party finished second with 18.4 per cent. UKIP candidate Howard Farmer said: "Especially in the current climate, you've got to be honest with voters or

they'll smell a rat. It's about giving them the option of who to vote for. Take that away and you're making it more difficult to make a free choice.

"We did a chart that included the Greens in third place. The only party we left off was Labour, but we only included the top four and they came fifth. If you're going to print something, at least have the decency to make it factual."

Until his retirement last year, Dr Meaden was a lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University. Alongside Mr Farmer, he has the difficult task of winning the Canterbury and

Whitstable seat held by veteran Tory MP Julian Brazier. The Labour candidate is Jean Samuel, and Guy Voizey is representing the Liberal Democrats. Dr Meaden said he only left UKIP off the chart because he did not consider it one of the main parties at this year's general election.

He added: "They always do badly because their agenda is getting out of the EU. They're definitely one of the main parties in European elections, but ask anyone who the main parties in the UK are and they will say the Conservatives, Labour and the Lib Dems.

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Kent Police and local councils are working together

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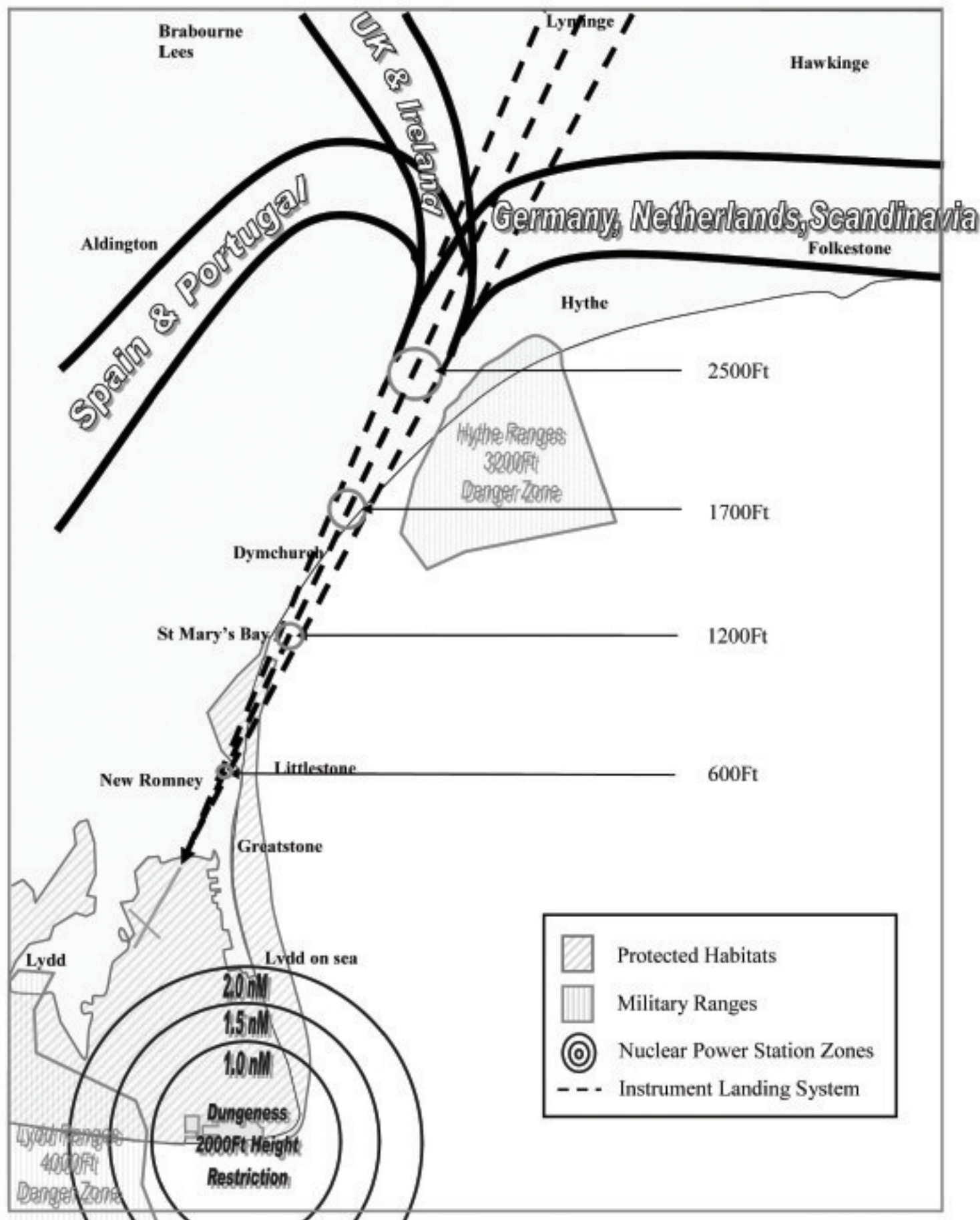
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Council hikes parking costs

ASHFORD council has slapped an inflation-busting rise of 12 per cent on motorists across the borough for using its car parks.

And some drivers look set to face a whopping 50 per cent hike in charges for parking in the centre of town.

It is the second year in a row Ashford council has hit the motorist with rises way above the rate of inflation.

It will now cost 90p an hour to park your car in Ashford town centre, while Tenterden shoppers will pay 80p. On-street parking suffers the biggest jumps, up as much as 50 per cent.

It's not a job to be trusted

WINDOW salesmen have admitted they hold one of the least trusted occupations in the South East.

Research conducted on behalf of the Ramsgate-based Elephant Windows shows even MPs, estate agents and builders are regarded as being more honest.

Only timeshare salesmen were judged as being less trustworthy.

Elephant Windows spokesman Duncan Barks said: "The days of salesmen in the mould of Arthur Daley or Frank Butcher are long gone, though clearly the stereotype regarding salespeople still exists."

Accountants, IT experts, and teachers needed to help the voluntary sector

By **MARIJKE COX**

PROFESSIONALS are being urged to come forward and help tackle the shortage of skilled volunteers.

New findings by the Kent Volunteers partnership revealed there is a desperate need for help from people working in the finance and accountancy, marketing and communications, and IT and technology industries.

Research also showed the voluntary sector is crying out for people skilled in sport, business administration and legal services.

To try and encourage those with specialist knowledge to sign-up, a campaign has been launched by Kent County Council asking people to volunteer their skills and make a difference.

Carole Kincaid, county co-ordinator for Kent Volunteers, said it can often provide a way into future employment, as well as giving people the chance to try something new.

"It doesn't have to involve giving up a lot of time," she said.

"Even small amounts of time can make such a difference to the way organisations operate. More importantly it can be a lot of fun and a way

to be part of something different."

Volunteers help contribute to improving life within communities and are included in the planning and delivery of services across the county. Partnerships between local and national organisations and charitable groups have been formed to look at the sector and see how it can be affected by factors such as the recession.

In recent years there have been concerns that shortages of volunteers could lead to cuts in services, which is why KCC believes it is important that skilled people get involved.

Peter Turner, a qualified accountant with more than 30 years' experience, has been an honorary treasurer for Voluntary Action Maidstone since 2007.

The group provides support to existing voluntary organisations and Mr Turner uses his expertise in accountancy to help prepare budgets, manage accounts and identify how charities can run more efficiently.

He urged other professionals to try volunteering.

"I find it really satisfying to know I'm helping whole groups of people

just by using my everyday skills – it's a real sense of achievement," he said.

"It's a great way to meet new people too, both on a personal level and to make professional contacts.

"I get a lot back from the volunteering I do; I've gained extra experience, enhanced my CV and developed new skills. I hope other professionals will give it a try and discover what it can offer them."

For others, volunteering has provided an escape from long-term unemployment.

Sue, a receptionist at Swale Council for Voluntary Services, said it helped rebuild her confidence after being out of work, leading to her eventual return to paid employment.

"Take the opportunity," she said. "It gave me such a boost and made me forget how bad I had been feeling and after time made me feel more myself."

"My confidence grew and after a couple of months I started to enjoy the social interaction with people."

Other skills areas being sought are creative, education and teaching, health and safety, and social and health care.

To find out how to start volunteering or for information on groups needing help go to www.kent.gov.uk/volunteers.

Howard approached in 'lobbying' sting

MICHAEL Howard has admitted he was approached by the fake lobbyists who exposed three former Cabinet ministers, but said he did not follow up their interest.

He and other Tories stayed away after being warned of a possible sting, according to The Guardian newspaper.

The former Home Secretary and ex-Tory leader, who is standing down as Shepway MP at the general election, already has a string of paid directorships declared in the Register of Members' Interests.

Mr Howard said: "It is true that I

was approached by someone purporting to represent a firm called Anderson Perry Associates. I did not pursue their approach and I did not attend any meeting with them."

Labour MPs Stephen Byers, Geoff Hoon and Patricia Hewitt – all former members of the Cabinet – have been suspended by the Parliamentary Labour Party after the Dispatches programme was broadcast on Channel 4 on Monday night. It implicated them in asking for money in exchange for being able to influence Government policy and an internal

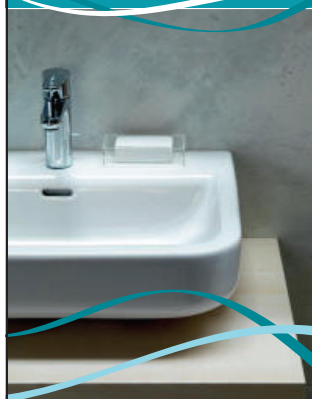
party investigation is under way.

The Guardian said that two days after being contacted by the would-be lobbyists, Mr Howard emailed back, suggesting "perhaps it would be a good idea for us to meet for breakfast" and said "I should perhaps mention I have also been approached by another company in your field but have not so far signed up to anyone".

Mr Howard is on the board of four companies and has been paid more than £36,000 in his role as non-executive chairman of Northern Racing since last August.

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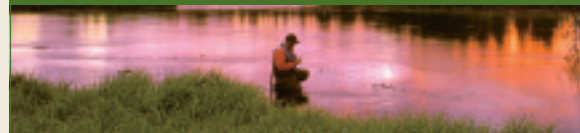
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GLORY DAYS: Buckland Mill as it is today (left) was in business for 203 years before its sudden closure in 2000

Paper mill torn from community rolls back time

IT WAS once the centre of a flourishing papermaking industry and workplace for generations of families, but now the rundown Buckland Mill in Dover stands empty and quiet.

Famous for its production of the superior Conqueror paper, it survived a major fire in 1887, and constant onslaught from shelling during the two world wars, continuing as a thriving business throughout the 20th century.

Even a crash by an RAF Spitfire onto its roof during the Battle of Britain in 1940 only temporarily stopped production, and by 1988 the mill's two paper machines were turning out 20,000 tonnes per year.

But at the end of June, 2000, a shock announcement by then-owner Arjo Wiggins Appleton that the mill would close saw more than 100 workers made redundant and the paper mill left empty.

The closure was blamed on production requirements being at over-capacity, and work was transferred to Scotland.

After 203 years in business the mill closed its doors permanently and the old site is now to be redeveloped into residential and business units.

To celebrate the history of the mill and preserve part of Kent's industrial heritage, community group Dover Arts Development (DAD) is creating a film using archive footage and photos, and stories from former employees.

The documentary, called Watermark, is tied in with the Hidden Treasures project by film and media agency Screen South, which looks to increase screening of archive footage.

A 'story shop' was held last week in Dover, where former mill workers and the public were invited to bring their old photos, films or newspaper cuttings to DAD.

Joanna Jones, director of the arts group, said: "There is often old footage of weddings and christenings and big family events, but it is hard to find archive films of people at work."

"This documentary was inspired by footage from a former worker showing the last Conqueror paper run at the mill."

It showed workers at conveyor belts, huge vats of bubbling pulp and the last paper rolls leaving the mill on a truck.

By **MARLIKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Screen South has given a grant of £20,000 to fund the project and the Kent Film Office has offered investment funding.

Film-maker Marianne Kapfer will make the documentary with award-winning composer Robert Jarvis.

The University of Kent will create an online archive and the arts, design and architecture faculty at the University of the Creative Arts will give specialist support.

Ms Jones said there are three main parts to the project; the documentary, the online archive, and interviews which will be archived for future use.

She said: "What we are trying to do is tell the story of the mill – it still exists in people's hearts. We also hope it will allow for wider reflection on the deindustrialisation of East Kent. No-one really understands why the mill closed, it seemed to be running at a profit. Its closure left a hole in Dover – it employed hundreds of people and generations of families."

"Those were happy years for people."

Ms Jones said the documentary will pay tribute to the people who gave their lives to the mill.

"The extraordinary thing about it is how much people valued the mill – this was a happy and social time for them," she said.

"We've been bowled over by how much interest there has been and we found the story shop was like a reunion. It's been wonderful."

Ms Jones said the documentary will be contemporary, but true to life in the mill.

It will be completed by February, 2011, and the online archive by July, 2011.

Other organisations involved in the production are English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Kent County Council, SeaChange Dover, Dover Town Council, SEEDA, Dover Pride, and UK Film Council.

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Government to review spending on former mining communities

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FORMER mining villages devastated by the closure of the pits 25 years ago are the focus of a new Government review.

Their demise came in the late 1980s when the Conservatives closed uneconomic coal mines, forcing thousands out of work and ending an industry.

In the last decade Labour has invested £1.5 billion nationwide in an attempt to transform former mining areas, but housing minister John Healey says more needs to be done.

The national review comes after the Government was criticised by spending watchdog the Commons Public Accounts Committee for letting projects run over budget and fall behind schedule. It also questioned the success of the schemes.

Collieries

Villages surrounding Kent's three main former collieries: Betteshanger, Snowdown, and Tilmanstone – all in the east of the county – are a particular focus.

Mr Healey said it was a huge task to revive them and the review was crucial to ensure investment was actually working.

"The review is to check the investment and the schemes we've set up are doing everything they can for the people in Kent who were hit hardest by the pit closures," he said.

"The review will look at what schemes are working well, what needs to be improved



PAST TIMES: Working the black seam

and how we can get the best value for public money that Government invests."

At Betteshanger, near Deal, a total of £18.8 million from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has been invested to create a sustainable, mixed-use development, including a nature reserve with leisure facilities, visitor centre and 3.5km cycle circuit registered for Olympic training.

And in the past year, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, working with Dover District Council, has given grants totalling £64,300 to a projects in former mining communities in its Bridging the Gap programme.

Mr Healey said: "The collapse of the coal industry saw a quarter of men across coalfield areas lose their jobs and nearly half of all ex-miners suffered long-term illness and injury. That's why we won't give up on these communities and continue to make sure our investment brings new jobs and hope."

But Gary Cox, chairman of the Move the Miner campaign and the Kent Miners' Festival, said promoting heritage should be at the forefront. "We need to start generating enthusiasm about mining history," he said. "It's not just about spending money on developments, but educating people about the generations before them and the work they did."

"If you drive into Wales you know when you're going through mining communities, but there's nothing here. Some people don't even know there were mines in Kent. Heritage is extremely important and there should be more focus on that."

But Mr Healey said it took time to deliver big changes and promised not to give up.

"Over the last decade we've invested £1.5bn to help almost 150,000 people across the country into jobs and training, and brought land the equivalent of 4,500 football pitches back into use," he said.

Ex-miner and retiring Barnsley MP Michael Clapham will chair the review along with senior members from the Industrial Communities Alliance, HCA, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Coalfields Enterprise Fund and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr Clapham said: "Funding over the last decade has had a major impact. We will now consider the delivery of the initiatives, in particular how the agencies could work better together to maximise the benefit of funding in coalfield communities."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Vehicles damaged by paint-stripper

POLICE in Ramsgate are appealing for information after cars were attacked with paint-stripper, causing £12,500 of damage.

Boots, door panels and bonnets were sprayed with a corrosive material between 1.30pm on Sunday, March 21, and 11am the next day.

Two Vectras, two Fusions, a Rover 45, a Peugeot 207, a Corsa and a Golf were targeted in Picton Road. A VW Fox and Touareg were damaged in Crescent Road, while a Mercedes-Benz was sprayed in Grove Road, and a Polo and Mondeo in South Eastern Road. Call Kent Police on 01622 690690 – or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 – if you can help.

Dodgy dentist fined

A MAN has been prosecuted for practising dentistry illegally.

The case against Justin Seeley of The Crescent, Bexley, was brought by the General Dental Council (GDC).

Seeley pleaded guilty to the offence at Bexley Magistrates' Court. Seeley unlawfully offered to practise dentistry in The Crescent, but as he is not registered with the GDC this was a criminal offence under the Dentists Act. Seeley was fined £100, ordered to pay £90 costs, and make a £15 contribution to the general victims' fund.

Trio in awards list

THREE of Kent's best picnic spots have been nominated for a national award.

Bedgebury Pinetum in Goudhurst; Teston Bridge near Maidstone, and Lullingstone Country Park in the Darent Valley are among nine regional finalists in this year's Warburton Picnic Awards. Visit www.welovebread.co.uk to register your vote.

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University helping to provide cure for health care projects

PREMATURE babies, diabetes patients and children with cerebral palsy are being helped through new health projects developed with assistance from the University of Kent.

Academics joined their counterparts from universities in Brighton and Surrey to assist the NHS in the South East in developing 200 service ideas through vital funding advice given over the past 18 months.

Their work helped in researching systems for monitoring premature babies suffering breathing problems; improving regimes for elderly diabetes patients; and creating exercise programmes for youngsters with cerebral palsy.

It also helped improve sexual health clinics; create strategies to help stroke patients recover; and

assisted in investigations into a new anaesthetic.

The work was carried out at the Research Design Service South East, run by the three universities and funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

Professor Valerie Hall, co-director of the Research Design Service, said their work is important in ensuring patient experience is improved.

"Quite often NHS staff need specialist help in applying for funds to test or develop their ideas," she said. "In our first year we held nearly 400 sessions with more than 226 staff to discuss how their ideas could be channelled into research applications."

Prof Hall said of those applications, more than 200 research projects have been initiated.

The Research Design Service helps staff by encouraging the development of high-quality research for the benefit of their patients.

It does so by providing free advice on how to pre-

pare a grant application to fund the research, including finding suitable funding sources, building a research team, and designing a study. Experts also show NHS staff how to identify the resources required for a project, while involving patients and the public.

One successful application submitted with help from the universities was research into pain management, based on the removal of wisdom teeth.

Bridget Carpenter, deputy director of the Research Design Service at the University of Kent's centre for health services studies, said the project looked at whether paracetamol was as good as giving anaesthetic by injection.

"If the project provides sound evidence that tablets are just as effective in relieving pain, then the benefits for patients are obvious and the potential savings for the NHS in time and money are enormous."

Raids uncover 'illegal staff'

SIX Medway firms are being investigated by immigration officials for allegedly employing illegal workers.

They were among 24 premises visited by Medway Council, Kent Police and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) during a joint operation.

If guilty, the businesses could each be fined up to £10,000 per worker found.

Thirteen businesses were also ordered to clean up their act after failing hygiene and safety checks.

Take-aways, restaurants and off-licences in Lordswood, Walderslade and parts of Chatham were the focus of Operation Unite.

The council officers demanded action on unsafe electrics, poor food preparation standards, unchilled food and unclean work surfaces and floors.

Three businesses were found to have breached licensing rules.

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO SEE HUBBLE 3D

THE Science Museum in London is offering five sets of family tickets to Hubble 3D which has been launched at the museum's IMAX 3D Cinema.

Hubble 3D, narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, takes you on the mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope where you can journey through distant galaxies and explore the mysteries of the universe.

Using incredible 3D technology you can accompany space-walking astronauts as they attempt the most difficult and important tasks in Nasa's history, and experience never-before-seen 3D flights through awe-inspiring Hubble imagery.

The IMAX 3D Cinema at the Science Museum is a powerful and immersive movie experience that transports you deep into the action with crystal-clear images and a screen taller than four double-decker buses.

To find out more about the IMAX 3D Cinema at the Science Museum visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/IMAX.

For your chance to win one of five family tickets (each allowing entry for two adults and two children) to Hubble 3D, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Hubble 3D Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 15, 2010.

QUESTION: What is Hubble?

- 1) A planet
- 2) Space telescope
- 3) A spacesuit

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Cancer charity dive is a family affair

A DARING mother and daughter team are gearing up for a sponsored tandem skydive to raise money for Kent Cancer Trust.

Sarah Lewis and her 16-year-old daughter Lottie Carter, from Canterbury, are doing the daring dive at Headcorn Airfield in memory of Sarah's grandparents, who both died from the disease.

The day of the jump – Sunday, May 2 – would have been her grandfather's 90th birthday.

Sarah said: "It seemed fitting that on the big day I, along with my daughter, launch myself out of a plane 10,000 feet above terra firma, in a bid to raise as much money as possible for Kent Cancer Trust."

They have already raised £500 between them, but are hoping to aiming for £1,500.

Kent Cancer Trust integrates cancer research, clinical treatments and public information about the disease.

You can donate at www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Lewis2 or www.justgiving.com/Lottie-Carter

Arrests in rape and kidnap investigation

A WOMAN and two men have been questioned in connection with a kidnap and rape in a village near Dover.

The incident took place in Lady Garne Road, West Hougham, but police have not released details of when it happened, or the age and gender of the victim.

Jiri Bano, 37, and Toman Daniel, 21, both from Pilgrims Way, Dover, have been charged with kidnap and were remanded in custody. Bano has also been charged with rape.

A 22-year-old woman was also arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to kidnap but has been released on bail until April 2, pending further investigations.

Picture: NTPL/ROBERT MORRIS



HISTORIC RESIDENCE:
The country house on the Knole estate has not changed a great deal over the centuries

Preserved in time

FROM the moment they enter the gates of Knole estate, visitors will have a pleasant feeling of anticipation.

The enormous country house is hidden from view as the long, steep drive winds its way through the grounds and up the hill overlooking Sevenoaks, giving visitors the chance to admire the many deer that can be seen in the park.

When the house is finally revealed, it is easy to see why novelist Vita Sackville-West was captivated by her childhood home.

JANE CONNOLLY discovers the fascinating links between royalty, nobility and literary figures at Knole house, residence of the Sackville family for more than 400 years

In sunny weather, Knole has a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encourages people to relax in the grounds with a book or a picnic. But visiting on a cold, overcast day in March, before the house had reopened to the public for the new season, I was struck by the silence, the feeling of remoteness and the overwhelming size of the magnificent building.

Standing at the huge front door, the flagpole creaking in the wind high above me, it felt as if I was stepping into the past and could be confronted by ghosts of former residents at any moment.

Benevolent

This chilly feeling was soon dispelled by the cheerful welcome I received from Helen Fawbert, house and collections manager, who took me on a fascinating tour of the enormous property.

With facts and figures at her fingertips, her enthusiasm was infectious and she soon dispelled the idea that Knole was the traditional 'creepy old house'.

"There are no ghost stories at all," she said. "It must be the only country house with no ghosts. Vita Sackville-West wrote that she would go around the rooms with a candle at night and she was sure that there were no ghosts; it was a benevolent structure."

"She loved the house and believed that it loved her. I never feel weird if I'm called out here at night."



Picture: NTPL/JOHN HAMMOND

RESIDENT: Novelist Vita Sackville-West loved Knole house and longed to inherit it

Given its long and intriguing history, it is surprising that Knole has not attracted the usual tales of ghostly goings-on. The home of the Sackville family for more than 400 years, it has also been owned by royals and archbishops, and has been something of a tourist attraction for the last three centuries.

Although the house has been in the possession of the National Trust since 1946, the show rooms at Knole have been attracting visitors since the early 18th century.

Some of the Sackvilles held high-profile roles at court, such as Lord Chamberlain, a position which required the holder to dispose of royal furniture when it was no longer needed.

Charles Sackville, 6th Earl of Dorset, amassed an impressive range of 17th century furniture, textiles and paintings at Copt Hall in Essex and moved the collection to Knole when the other house was sold in 1701.

"Being Lord Chamberlain meant that you had seriously high contacts at court and they wanted to show the status of the family, as had been. At the time, people would have recognised the work of royal craftsmen, so the contacts would have been obvious," Miss Fawbert said.

"The weird thing about all these show rooms is that they were probably last lived in during the first half of the 17th century. The family were Royalists and during the Civil War, the house was sequestered by the Parliamentarians and lots of items were sold off to raise money. The house was left empty and in bad repair."

"When Charles II came back to the throne, the family set about repairing the house in terms of their living areas and



Picture: NTPL/ADAM MACKENZIE

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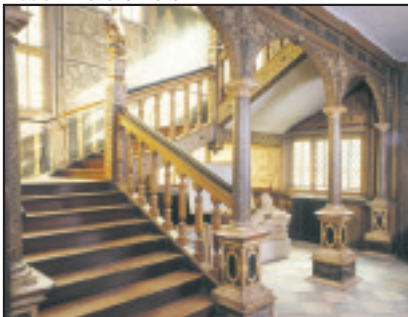


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STEEPED IN HISTORY: Imposing great staircase (left) and portraits in the Brown Gallery (right)

retiring to rooms that were more usable. The royal furniture came here in 1701 and it became like a museum."

Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, was the first Sackville to occupy Knole and he put his high society connections to good use when he set about improving the house.

In 1605 he commissioned the Great Staircase with its beautiful depictions of the Ages of Man, the Five Senses and the Virtues and Vices, which were first designed for the benefit of esteemed guests and would later captivate the many visitors exploring Knole.

"People had classical educations at that time and would recognise the symbolism. For you to understand the pictures meant that you had access to an education," Miss Fawbert explained.

"Before the 18th century, only privileged people came upstairs but then people began to visit – not quite in the same way as they do today, but there was quite a wide spectrum of people who came.

"There were those who would make progress around the country, visiting country houses, like an upper middle class pursuit."

Knole had also won the heart of the community and when Mortimer Sackville-West attempted to close the park in 1884, locals besieged the house in protest.

"It was a very middle class riot, but he had to open the gates again. What started off as a privilege, to visit Knole, came to be considered as almost a right."

Knole's history is bursting with colourful characters, the best-known being novelist, poet and gardener Vita Sackville-West. She was passionately attached to Knole and is credited with starting various myths about the house, though her creative streak was evidently a family trait.

"Vita could not inherit Knole, but she loved it and her writing here was extensive. She was quite bitter about it," Miss Fawbert said.

"Her cousin Eddy inherited but he did not like Knole and didn't spend much time here."

Knole is still home to the Sackville family, but this summer visitors will be able to see the Orangery which is being opened to the public for the first time. With new discoveries still being made, Miss Fawbert believes Knole has plenty to offer both visitors and historians.

"Some people love the dark and atmospheric quality of the house. It's a bit mysterious. The appeal with Knole is that so little has changed.

"Thomas Sackville would notice changes but he would be able to find his way around, even 400 years later, and that's quite unusual."

FACT FILE

Knole's famous residents

- Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, bought the manor of Knole in 1456 and there is no firm evidence that a building existed before this time.
- In 1538 Henry VIII forced the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, to hand Knole over to him. But it is thought the King spent little time there, as he acquired 60 royal residences during his lifetime.
- Queen Elizabeth I granted Knole to her favourite, Robert Dudley, but it was returned to her possession after five years in exchange for land elsewhere.
- Sir Thomas Sackville acquired the lease in 1570 and began a family association with Knole which has lasted more than 400 years.
- Knole was the birthplace of novelist Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), who would later create the internationally-renowned garden at Sissinghurst Castle and had a passionate affair with fellow writer, Virginia Woolf.
- The most famous piece of furniture in the house is the Knole settee, a prototype from which countless reproductions were made from the late 19th century onwards. Although it looks similar to the modern sofa, the settee was used in a more formal context. Placed beneath a canopy in the state dressing room or 'cabinet' beyond the bedchamber, it would have been used by the King or Queen to receive their most privileged guests.

• *The house is open from Wednesday to Sunday until October 31. For more information call 01732 450608 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.*

NHS says hang up up on bogus callers

HEALTH chiefs are urging the public to be vigilant about bogus callers who claim to be reviewing their medication.

More than five patients across Eastern and Coastal Kent have been telephoned by someone pretending to be calling from a local GP surgery.

The caller gives the impression they are from an official NHS source and asks about the patient's medication.

One woman in her 80s thought she was talking to a GP surgery and gave her bank details and later found £179.50 deducted from her account.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's assistant director of medicines management, Alison Issott, said: "No NHS health professional would ever ask for a patient's credit card details over the phone.

"We urge anyone who is suspicious of the calls not to give out personal details and to contact police."

Woman charged with death by drink driving

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman has appeared in court charged with the death of a Folkestone man who died in a car crash near Portsmouth.

Karl Butler, a 22-year-old ferry steward of Surrinden Road, was a passenger when the car crashed into the wall of the Lounge nightclub in Southsea on November 6 last year.

Sharn Michelle Van-Gool is accused of causing death by dangerous driving while over the alcohol limit.

Mr Butler suffered serious injuries and died at the scene. Van-Gool, from Gwent, did not enter a plea when she appeared at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court.

She will next appear at a preliminary hearing at Portsmouth Crown Court on Monday.

Spring's latest trends at fremlin walk

peaches & cream



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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Much more than a marginal role

IT COMES as no surprise that Prime Minister Gordon Brown has highlighted Kent as one of the key battlegrounds in the run-up to the General Election.

With half a dozen marginal seats, our county could determine who ends up in Downing Street.

That is why in recent months a host of big-name politicians have descended on Kent – with more expected in the next few weeks.

Not only has the PM visited in recent months, but Home Secretary Alan Johnson came to Dover to praise Border Agency staff, and Justice Minister Claire Ward launched an online publication in Maidstone two weeks ago.

The Tories have also been attempting to make their mark with a visit from leader David Cameron in January and another last week. Politicians clearly believe Kent is key to the future, so here's an opportunity to raise the issues important to you and make your voice heard on the hustings.

Love's final frontier

A LOVING husband has made his late wife's wish come true by sending her into space.

In a romantic gesture, the 85-year-old arranged for the ashes of his space-obsessed darling to be blasted up to the stars on the next flight from Spaceport America.

Surely it can't be the first time this has crossed a spouse's mind. There must be many partners out there who would love to see their other half blasted into space – possibly while they're still alive.

OPINION:

It's every man for himself

This may come as a shock, but other drivers can use that on-street parking space outside your home, says Steve Knight

now own more than one vehicle.

But judging by some of the 'discussions' I've had with neighbours, it's fairly safe to assume the parking problems Mr Carroll speaks of have little to do with the actual lack of space on the road to park, and more with the inability for them to do so outside their own front doors.

If there's one thing that riles residents the most, it's when somebody parks in 'their space' even though their real space (in their garage) has already been taken up by their partner's vehicle. I mean, how dare somebody place their vehicle in a perfectly acceptable position, forcing the person whose house it is outside to park a further 10 yards down the road?

The pain and suffering this must cause is almost enough to make me release a charity single, enlisting the help of Duncan from Blue and Chico to encourage everybody else to give generously and help these poor souls afford to buy a life.

What's even more ridiculous along my road is that virtually

every building contains about four or five separate apartments, so how is it even possible for us all to park outside only a handful of front doors, unless you stack the cars on top of one another?

If you're going to move into a narrow road full of new properties, you should expect to have trouble parking if you have more than one car – that's just the way it is.

If you want to blame somebody, blame the Government. But don't take it out on your neighbours, who are suffering from the lack of space just as much as you are.

Over the last two-and-a-bit years I've had people ringing on my intercom at midnight, leaving patronising notes on my windscreen and even writing four-letter words in black marker pen on my back window – and all because I had the bare-faced cheek to park somewhere I'm fully entitled to.

According to the management team looking after the development in which I live, cars that are not parked in designated bays should be taken off the estate.



But who in their right mind is going to obey such a rule when there are no double yellow lines or road signs to enforce it?

Don't get me wrong – I get as annoyed about the lack of available parking spaces as the next person.

But the difference with me is that rather than leave petty notes on people's cars or go whining to my (prospective) MP, I accept that very few things in life are perfect.

So what if you have to walk a little bit further every day to get to your car? Who cares that you've parked in the very same space outside your home for years? Certainly not me.

I never thought I'd see myself typing this, but when it comes to on-street parking it's every man for himself.

And unless you have a valid reason for claiming a particular section of pavement belongs to you, you might just come home to find my car parked on it – just to annoy you.



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A turning point for KCC

This could be a first for the inept Kent County Council – it has finally found a contractor that is doing a good job of resurfacing the Thanet Way. Fast, efficient and working early in the day and at night.

This has been done on roads in Germany since the early 1970s. Perhaps this is a turning point for KCC. The Government should take note, this company could do a good job on repairing roads nationwide.

Maybe the next surprise from KCC will be that all our council tax is going towards paying for services instead of recession-proof council pension funds.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Save our sacred space

The new Bishop of Dover already appears to have adopted a confrontational stance.

Rather than meeting with and addressing the concerns of those who are appalled at the plans of disordering proposed for our historic Ashford Parish Church, he chose to spend his time in Ashford with the priest and council.

His edict that “future generations will stand in judgement if we don’t do this” is both antagonistic and ill-advised.

He cannot possibly have had time fully to understand the history of this church and just why it would be so damaging to make the sweeping changes proposed, rather than restore the building properly.

He hasn’t mentioned how much the Church of England will save if the project goes ahead, in that most of the money would be coming from central government. Do people really want to defend splurging more than £1 million on this during a recession?

The Bishop has identified that the building is cluttered. This is because of temporary work carried out in 1999 which cluttered the aisle and south transept. It was supposed to last 15 months as an experiment, yet we are still lumbered with it 10 years later.

They’re guilty as charged

I was amazed to see your report that not one council in Kent has bid for charging stations for electric vehicles.

All the major car producers have introduced electric models over the last couple of years. Performance and range have improved radically, and so has the possibility of pollution-free traffic making little noise. There are now 32 air quality management areas in the county, primarily due to pollution from traffic. That KCC has a website covering air quality may be good in terms of transparency, but it’s a sad indictment of a cavalier approach to

public health. Air pollution should have been dealt with long ago. The transition to electric vehicles, made inevitable by the peaking of oil supplies and the need to cut greenhouse gases, will help reduce the 24,000 deaths in the UK each year which result from air pollution.

But this does mean awakening our local councils to the public health and environmental advantages of electric vehicles, it seems. Let us now see rapid remedial action by councils to compensate for their lack of leadership to date.

Hazel Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

It is ridiculous to suggest the intention would be for the church to be used, for instance, as a lap-dancing venue. And although there are no plans for barn dances or market trading either, the danger of removing pews from the nave, making it an open space, means the building can be turned over to all kinds of uses, despite rules which are supposed to protect church buildings.

If the Bishop and Archbishop of the day choose to turn a blind eye, there is no way of enforcing these rules.

With the ever-more lawless path the Church is going down (dressed up as modernisation), it would be more than likely that unsuitable events would be permitted.

Removing the pews would also confine traditional Anglican worship to the chancel.

Recently, the 8am Sunday service has seen an increase in attendance. With a little effort,

that service will attract more worshippers than can fit into the St Anne’s Chapel, and then we will need to seat people in the nave.

Especially those who are disabled or infirm, fixed pews provide much more stability than flimsy chairs, plus the pews in the nave contribute to an orderly look.

A nave with chairs would lend itself more to experimental types of worship (not facing east for instance), but we have a modern church hall at the eastern end of the churchyard which would be a much more appropriate venue for such experiments.

A town the size of Ashford requires as much seating capacity in its parish church as possible, and chairs seat fewer persons over a given area than pews do. A 2,500-name petition also asks that the town be given a proper arts venue, not one shared with the church, which as a medieval structure and a

Christian church, is entirely unsuitable for many types of performance and other events.

There is little to commend this project. It’s a pity the Bishop didn’t trouble to discuss these issues with us before rushing his views into print, trying to shore-up the case for an indefensible act of vandalism against an ancient and historic town centre church.

Chris Cooper, by email

Rail freight the answer

High-speed rail lines might benefit a privileged few, but only if we concentrate on passenger travel. The larger operating envelope of new tracks could allow freight trains to travel from all corners of the Continent to Scotland or Wales.

One freight train can carry the equivalent of 20 to 30 juggernauts. Switzerland already compels lorries to pass through their country by rail. Just think of the massive benefit goods transported by rail would have on the people of Kent. Operation Stack would be much reduced, roads less clogged, there would be less pollution, fewer road casualties, and so on. This country makes very little use of rail freight and we need to do a lot more.

A recently introduced service of one or two freight trains from the Mediterranean now passes through Ashford each week. Perhaps this is the start of things to come.

Ted Prangnell, Kennington, Ashford

Striking lack of sense

I have to wonder just what the BA cabin crews are after with their strike?

They have let the Unite union talk them into a mass transfer to the edge of the cliff, much like a load of lemmings. Surely it is obvious that no-one is going to win but a lot of people could lose their jobs.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Letters continued on page 30

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BIRTHS

BOSTOCK

Amy and Jason Bostock celebrate the birth of their son Seth Jason Bostock on 18th March 2010.

CLARKE

Graham Craig and Kathryn Clarke celebrate the birth of their Daughter Evie Louise Clarke on 12th March 2010. Little Sister for Rhys.

CLAYTON

Rebecca and Graeme Clayton celebrate the birth of their son Toby John Clayton on 14th March 2010.

DOBSON

Kirsty and Liam are delighted to announce the birth of their baby son Kenzo. Proud big brothers are Lewis and Callum.

GOTT

Kayleigh Louise born on 15th March 2010, weighing 7lb 14oz. Daughter to Christopher and Leane in Maidstone.

GRIFFITHS

Rebecca is delighted to announce the birth of her son Theo George Griffiths, born on 16th February 2010 at QE/M Hospital. My most beautiful and precious son.

OSHEA

John and Liz are delighted to announce the birth of their son Alexander Marcus on 11th March 2010 at Pembury Hospital

OTT

Nicholas and Andea are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Ella Rose born on the 5th March 2010 at Pembury Hospital weighing 5lb 14oz.

DEATHS

BROWN

Ray Brown died peacefully at home on 18th March 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 2pm on 31st March 2010. Charity donations to The Macmillan Cancer Support.

CLARK

Stan Clark of Lydd passed away peacefully on 22nd March 2010 aged 86.

CLOKE

Harry James (Joe) Cloke of Hythe died peacefully on 19th March 2010. Funeral service at Barham at 10am, Tuesday 30th March.

HAWKESWORTH

Ron Hawkesworth of Folkestone died peacefully on 20th March 2010 Funeral Service at Hawkinge Crematorium on 31st March at 2pm. All friends welcome.

LAMKIN

Jean Hilda Lamkin of Bekebourne died on 18th March 2010. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on Tuesday March 30th at 11.20am. Flowers if desired or donations to the British Heart Foundation.

RALPH

In loving memory of Joan Irene Ralph, our dear mum and nan, who passed away peacefully at home on 12th March 2010. She will be greatly missed. Lots of love Marion, David, Janet, Zoe, Blake, Damon, Ross and family and friends. May you be at rest with your great-grand daughter Isla. xxx

ROBERTS

Joan Ivy Roberts passed away on 18th March 2010 at Darent Valley Hospital. Funeral to be held at Dartford Baptist Church on 7th April at 11am. She will be sadly missed by all the family.

tus in the UK alone and many are coping with both tinnitus and hearing loss, yet less than £1 per year is spent per capita in finding treatments and cures.

Vivienne Michael, Deafness Research UK

Research needed as we all live longer lives

Latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reveal that on average, men and women now aged 65 can expect to live until 82 and 85 respectively.

However, the figures also show that of those extra years, men can expect to live over seven years (7.2) with a long-standing illness or disability and women over nine years (9.4).

While our increased life expectancy is cause for celebration, we must ensure that people in later life remain healthy for as long as possible to enable us all to make the most of our extra years. Science has played a key role in increasing life expectancy, but age-related research looking at the health problems associated with later life remains a hugely underfunded area.

Research into Ageing, the biomedical research arm of Age Concern and Help the Aged, carries out research into the causes, prevention and treatment of diseases and disabilities that become more common with age.

The charity funds research into a range of things, from incontinence to dementia to nutrition. For more information, or to support Research into Ageing, visit www.ageing.org or call 0207 239 1984.

Prof James Goodwin, *Age Concern and Help the Aged*

Cycling towards Paris for our good cause

The Meningitis Trust is making the final call for people to take part in our London to Paris Cycle Ride, which takes place from July 2-5.

Over the three (the fourth is free) days, cyclists will pedal across undulating terrain and are rewarded with fantastic views as the route weaves through the South Downs, then on to France and through the pretty Normandy countryside. The finish line is at one of Europe's most recognisable landmarks, the Eiffel Tower.

By raising money for the Meningitis Trust, participants will enable the charity to continue offering its unique range of professional services and community-based support; helping people rebuild their lives after meningitis.

Registering couldn't be easier, simply call 0845 120 4530 for a free information pack or www.meningitis-trust.org/cycle.

Participants will be required to pay a registration fee and pledge to raise funds for the trust.

Rozza Woodley, *London to Paris Cycle Ride organiser, Meningitis Trust*

The truth slaughtered by BBC documentary

Spring is finally here, and what better illustration of new life and hope than seeing newborn lambs gamboling in our countryside?

Sadly, the recent BBC series *Lambing Live* showed an overly picture-box version of this livestock industry, while predictably sidestepping more awkward questions on animal welfare and the morality of eating meat.

The programme's makers failed viewers, and the animals themselves, by not showing the grim reality of slaughter. TV presenter Kate Humble's platitudes about killing baby animals – let's not make bones about it because that is what they are – were frankly insulting.

The reality of the British sheep industry is not quite so rosy. About 15 per cent of all newborn lambs die annually in the UK, with hypothermia responsible for about one

million deaths each year. Most UK lambs are subjected to tail docking.

A rubber ring is applied to the tail and prevents blood flow. Between four to six weeks later the tail will wither and drop off. This causes pain and stress. Naturally, sheep can live 10 to 12 years, but lambs killed for meat are typically just four months old.

If the BBC undertakes to make programmes such as this, it must not – for want of a better term – pull the wool over the eyes of viewers.

For once, why doesn't the BBC commission a documentary that investigates the shocking truth behind the short lives and brutal deaths of the 881 million animals killed for meat each year in the UK?

If you want to celebrate new life this spring, why not go veggie? For free help in saving the lives of animals, contact Viva! on 0117 944 1000 or email info@viva.org.uk.

Justin Kerswell, *campaigns manager, Viva!*

Helping to cope with Asperger's Syndrome

In celebration of World Autism Day (April 2), I wanted to draw attention to the needs of a particular subgroup of autism, namely children with Asperger's Syndrome.

Children and young people with Asperger's usually have significant difficulties in socialising with others and making friends.

They also like to have routines, even if the routines do not appear to most people to be useful. They can have very restricted interests and can have a difficulty with language development.

Their apparent 'oddness' can lead to teasing, social isolation and possible mental health problems.

Most professionals agree that early diagnosis offers the best outcome.

The most appropriate treatment is a package of measures – depending on the needs of the child – which includes training in social skills, social communication intervention and therapy to reduce the number of obsessive interests.

However, perhaps we should as a society, instead of labelling the difference, celebrate the diversity of human talents and ways of being.

In the world of maths, computing, engineering, cataloguing and science there is great value in a precise eye for details, which many people with Asperger's have.

For parents of children with Asperger's the choice of school is all important.

Many children with Asperger's are educated in mainstream schools. A smaller number attend specialist schools.

Whatever school is chosen by parents, it will need to celebrate diversity, to have an inclusion policy which is genuine rather than illusory and which meets the child's special needs in an holistic and caring way.

I have written a free and simple fact-sheet on Asperger's which can be downloaded from the Appleford School website www.appleford.wilts.sch.uk or you can write to Asperger's Simplified Factsheet, Appleford School, Shrewton, Wiltshire SP3 4HL.

Dr Peter Gardner
Chartered Psychologist, British Psychological Society

A generation betrayed

Government cuts to university education are so short-sighted as to be a joke.

If Britain is prosper in the future it will need to innovate and develop new products and processes.

It is the graduates of the future who will drive the economic development of our country – so what does the Government do?

It makes sure there will be fewer graduates in the future by cutting university places in an effort to balance the national accounting books.

Young people already struggle too hard to make a future for themselves, and this is nothing less than a betrayal of a generation.
Charles Harper, *by email*

Letters continued from page 29

Lisbon trap has been sprung on Great Britain

Herman Van Rompuy is the unelected president of more than 500 million people, including us.

He receives a taxpayer-funded salary higher than that of President Barack Obama in the United States. Mr Van Rompuy would never have been given the position if we had been given the referendum on Europe that we were all promised. The majority of people do not want another layer of bureaucracy with centralised power creating a remoteness and a separation between the public servant and the public they serve.

The EU intends to set up its own prosecutor's office and European arrest warrant is simply giving us a foretaste of what awaits.

It will be applied not just to people who are extradited outside Britain, but in Britain itself, under new European laws and rules, which will be imposed on us although they are utterly alien to our own traditions.

Will the other parties get us out of the European Union? No. Will the other parties turn the tide of immigration? No. The EU is a massive threat to national security and the personal safety of each and every one of us. The Lisbon Treaty is a trap which has been sprung.

Victor Webb, *UK Independence Party parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells*

Country's digital divide is not being narrowed

While poverty charity Elizabeth Finn Care supports Prime Minister Gordon Brown's proposals for a Digital Future, it believes questions need to be asked to ensure vulnerable groups are not ostracised further from society as Britain moves towards a more digital age.

Elizabeth Finn Care is concerned that those living in poverty will not benefit from the Government's proposals, because they won't be able to afford their own computers and monthly internet fees.

Furthermore, the organisation knows from experience that some vulnerable groups, such

as the disabled, struggle to find funding to access the equipment they need to access the internet or simply don't have the support and training they need to use it – leaving them feeling isolated and excluded from the rest of society.

The charity is urging the Government to ensure that all members of the public have cheap access to computers and the internet to benefit from these changes, while sufficient training is given to ensure individuals are confident in using information technology and can benefit from the introduction of Mygov.

The internet is an extremely valuable tool, so let's ensure we give everyone the capabilities to access it.

Rob Tolan, *Elizabeth Finn Care*

Don't suffer in silence if you have tinnitus

In the wake of the recent Tinnitus Awareness Week, I write to inform your readers of new initiatives Deafness Research UK is launching to help sufferers of this distressing condition.

Deafness Research UK is determined not to give up on those who are enduring the symptoms of tinnitus every day and while we continue to search for cures, we are publishing a free leaflet, called *Managing Tinnitus*, and our national helpline is available to provide additional support for those who need us.

Tinnitus is a condition that causes ringing in the ears or head, but where the noise does not originate from an external source.

The noise level can range from a light buzzing to a constant roar of sound and it can have a devastating effect on quality of life.

We are offering *Managing Tinnitus* free to sufferers and those who suspect they may have the condition.

People can get the leaflet from our website at www.deafnessresearch.org.uk, by emailing info@deafnessresearch.org.uk or by calling our freephone helpline on 0800 808 2222.

The leaflet offers advice on how to manage the condition, based on the very latest research.

Current research indicates that many sufferers could benefit from using a hearing aid and we are encouraging people to at least have a discussion with their GP.

About five million people suffer from tinni-



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New diploma to help launch careers in the public sector

A NEW qualification aimed at people who want to embark upon a career in the public sector has been launched.

Those hoping to join the police force, fire service or other jobs in the sector will be able to take their Diploma in Public Services from September, 2010, at colleges in Dover, Deal and Sandwich.

It is one of the first areas in the country to launch this new diploma scheme.

The course will include modules such as protecting society, leadership and management and health and well-being.

Lis Martin, partnership lead for the Diploma in Public Services at Skills for Justice, said: "This diploma is exactly what the public sector has been crying out for – a qualification that will channel enthusiastic young people into the many fantastic careers on offer."

"It will provide a new lease of life to the sector and will ensure that employees of the future are well equipped with relevant knowledge to prepare them for work."

For information visit www.diplomapublicservices.co.uk.

£10m campus will Bridge the gap on new homes site

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A PRIMARY school, sports hall and nursery form part of a new £10 million community and learning campus at The Bridge housing development in Dartford.

Iconic fashion and urban designer Wayne Hemingway was on hand to officially open the building, which also houses a youth centre, a sensory room for disabled people and healthcare and social services.

The campus will be available for everybody living in the £500m estate, which will eventually comprise of 1,500 homes and 1.8 million square feet of commercial space.

Mr Hemingway, who is chairman of the South Coast Design Forum, said: "We jumped at the chance to get involved in this project."

"Life is about living in a place and enjoying it. The best thing is about seeing kids using the building, being enthused and having a good time."

"That's what The Bridge is about."

Paid for by Dartford council, ProLogis Developments and the housebuilder George

Wimpey, the new campus includes many environmental features as well as a bay tree planted in the sensory room as a reminder of the official opening.

The primary school opened its doors last September and is currently home to more than 60 pupils across three classes. The nursery will also be run there.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Cllr Kevin Lynes, said the campus was the first of its kind in the county.

He added: "This is all about providing a new place at the centre of a community for the community."

"As more people move into the new homes it will grow to suit their needs, as we are putting the infrastructure in place before more housing is built."

"It is economical, green and the sign of things to come as local people will be able to educate their children, go to evening classes or jump on the bus to Bluewater, Dartford and Ebbsfleet – all from one place."

Dartford council leader Cllr Jeremy Kite added: "Today marks the culmination of a huge amount of hard work to bring about this truly unusual and distinctive facility, in what is becoming a landmark community for Dartford."

Courses to help make workplace more welcoming for the disabled

VISIT Kent representatives have taken part in a training course to learn how to advise businesses on improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Advisors at the organisation, which promotes tourism in Kent, and specialist trainers from Tourism South East, believe it is vital that companies make small improvements to gain a competitive edge.

Research found that 2.5 million disabled people travel for pleasure regularly, contributing more than £40 billion to the UK economy.

Kerstin Beeching, training manager at Visit Kent, said: "This is an important market. Our Welcome All training courses available to tourism, leisure and hospitality



WELCOMING SIGN: Visit Kent staff learn how to sign on Our Welcome All course

businesses focus on small, practical steps owners can take which will make a big difference to their staff, guests and customers."

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Move 'n' Smooth can be a great addition to your event. We can almost guarantee that few of your pupils will have seen anything like it. Our professional staff will ensure that the set up and service during the events go smoothly.

The Move 'n' Smooth we use only fresh ingredients to make certain all drinks served during the event will be of highest quality. We can provide menus which can be tailor made for your event.

Our presence at your school will always receive an overwhelming thumbs up.

Since it was founded move'n'smooth has worked in conjunction with the NHS, Change4Life, department of education the MEND child obesity programme and many more.

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product lines. Voucher cannot be used in conjunction
with any other promotional offer, and is not redeemable
for cash or gift vouchers. It is not valid toward any
previously purchased merchandise. Photocopies,
damaged or altered vouchers will not be accepted.
Your 20% off voucher is only valid once and must be
handed in at the time of transaction.
Returned goods will be refunded
at the discounted price paid.



10% discount
on all articles.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.
(excluding articles already on special offer)



DEVRED

10€ discount
applied to purchases
totalling 50€ and over.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.



Le lieu des lunettes change

30€ discount
on the purchase of
a Générale d'Optique
frame + 2 lenses.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.
Offer valid for a minimum purchase of 100€ -
can only be applied once and cannot be used
in conjunction with any other promotional offer.



Histoires de Senteurs

20% discount
on one sachet
of pot pourri
+ a vase or a dish.

Chosen from a selection of items.
From 3 to 10 April 2010.

LITTLE
BIG STORE

25% discount
on our selection
of rubber and plush
ducks.

From 3 April to 17 April 2010.

MATY
Bygone Creation

20% discount
on the new collection.

According to labelling in the store
from 17 March to 10 April 2010.

Marionnaud
Ce qui est unique chez nous, c'est vous.

20% discount
on your favourite item.

In exchange for this coupon, 20% reduction, once only,
on your favourite article from 3 to 17 April 2010.
Offer valid only in the Marionnaud perfume department -
Ché Europe shopping mall - Coquelicot immediate discount
at the cash till. Excluding items marked with a red dot,
personal hygiene products, mass marketing, Marionnaud
gift vouchers, gift boxes, accessories and jewellery. Cannot
be used in conjunction with other on-going promotional
offer (either a percentage or a cash amount).
This coupon cannot be replaced, exchanged for cash,
either totally or partially, nor redeemed for cash.
Offer 07100046194.



Le lieu se trouve en chocolaterie

10% discount
on all articles.

From 3 April to 17 April 2010.

Toys R Us

20% off
purchases

Excluding media and gift cards,
valid upon presentation of original voucher
in store to Colson the period from 3 to 17 April 2010.

flunch

10% discount
on the bill.

Offer valid from 3 to 17 April 2010.

flunch

1 child eats free
with every full paying adult.

Offer valid from 3 to 17 April 2010.

Carrefour**LIQUIDS**

Vin de Pays de Loire
Sauvignon
75cl bottle

3€

**BUY 1.
GET 1
FREE!**

LIQUIDS

Vin de Pays
Merlot
75cl bottle

3€

**BUY 1.
GET 1
FREE!**

LIQUIDS

Muscadet
75cl bottle

4€

**BUY 1.
GET 1
FREE!**

LIQUIDS

Bourgogne Chardonnay
CHAUSSEON
75cl bottle

5€

**BUY 1.
GET 1
FREE!**

DARJEELING
LINGERIE

10€ discount
applied to purchases
totalling 50€ and over.

Offer valid from 5 to 30 April 2010
in your Old Europe department boutique upon presentation
of this coupon at the cash desk.
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional
offer and is not valid for purchasing gift vouchers.
Code OP 06

CAFÉ
La Parisienne

10% discount
on the bill.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.



menu 1:
Muscler

(marinières, cream, garlic or moraille cheese)
+ a 50cl bottle of light ale
at a special price of 13.50€.

menu 2:

Omelette (plain or ham/cheese)
and chips
+ a 50cl bottle of light ale
at a special price of 11.50€.

From 15.00 to 18.00, free tasting of our 2 special beers
(home-brewed)
- la belle province: amber beer made from maple syrup,
refermented in the bottle
(Silver medal 2009 at the agricultural show)
and the triple: using raw hops - fermented
a 3rd time in the bottle (new blend).
From 3 to 17 April 2010.

SERGEANT MAJOR

20% to 40% reductions
on a selection of articles
indicated in the store.

From 7 to 19 April 2010.

TIE RACK
LONDON

10% off all ladies products.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.
Excluding items already on offer or multiple discounts.

Tutti Quanti

1 glass of white wine offered.

From 3 to 17 April 2010.
For any meal ordered the same day.

LIQUIDS

FRENCH CONNECTION
exist in various grape varieties:
Chardonnay, Merlot
75cl bottle

4€

**BUY 1.
GET 1
FREE!**

HOUSEWARES

PERIL washing powder
"Bouquet de Provence"
60 portions

11€

2.21€ per kilo

GROCERIES

Liège chocolate waffles
12 + 6 free - 1.170kg

4€ /packet

3.41€ per kilo

GROCERIES

CARREFOUR
virgin olive oil
1L

5€

**BUY 2.
GET 1
FREE!**

GROCERIES

LARNAUDIE Confit de canard
1.240kg

8€ /tin

6.45€ per kilo

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Pistachio
800g
Country of origin: IR

8€ /sachet

10€ per kilo

FISH

Dried cod
Origin: NORTH EAST ATLANTIC

12€ /kilo

BAKERY

Chocolate croissants
all butter x 10

3€ /pack of 10

Cité Europe welcomes you

- Shops:**
from 10 am to 8 pm from Monday to Thursday,
from 10 am to 9 pm on Friday and
from 10 am to 8 pm on Saturday.
- Hypermarket:**
from 8.30 am to 9 pm from Monday to Wednesday,
and from 8.30 am to 10 pm from Thursday to Saturday.
- Restaurants and bars:**
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OKAIDOBALDI
SERGENT MAJOR
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AIGLE
ALAIN MANOUKIAN
ANTONELLE
ARMAND THIERY
BENETTON
BUS STOP
C&A
CACHE CACHE
CAMARIEU
CHRISTINE LAURE
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BRICE
BUS STOP
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Hypermarket

CARREFOUR
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Faversham Residential Home
requires
Weekend Domestic Cleaner
9am - 2pm
For further details please telephone
01795 532629
between 10am - 4pm

Black Tie Foods Ltd
Sales People
required
No experience necessary.
Full training and vehicle provided.
Call 01732 760484

PART TIME WAITING STAFF
Required for The Beacon,
1.5 miles from Tunbridge Wells.
Experienced preferred.
Call Diego on 01892 524252

A keen enthusiastic
CHEF
required at busy café restaurant at Ramsgate seafront
For more information please call Heather 07966 295070 or Andy 07796 858612 or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Home Carers

Audley Care is seeking individuals to deliver high quality care and domestic support to our clients living in their own homes in and around the Maidstone area.

Successful candidates will have their own transport, ideally have experience working in a care environment as well as having, or be willing to work towards, an NVQ2 qualification.

In return we offer good hourly rates, flexible working hours, comprehensive training and an exciting career opportunity to join this rapidly expanding business.

To apply or for further information please contact Jane Wilson on 01622 633101 or email janew@audleycare.co.uk

We have various shifts to fulfil (inc. days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays) therefore when applying please state your preferred days and hours of work.

Closing date: Thursday 1 April 2010

An enhanced CRB check will be undertaken for successful applicants.

www.audleycare.co.uk



Part Time Drivers & Child Supervisors
required for home to school transport (not owner drivers).
Term time only. ALSO
Weekend Taxi Drivers
Help with Licence fees.
Clean Licence.
Tonbridge
Call Dan on 01732 355866

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“Sales done properly?”
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OPPORTUNITIES IN INBOUND AND OUTBOUND SALES

Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000+ • OTE £16k - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission)

Excellent benefits packages | Folkestone and Thanet

It's real people we are after... people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a genuine rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over.

And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives.

What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS375/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 9 April 2010.

saga.co.uk



SAGA
Saga people do things properly

Apprentices and Tutors required for Upholstery and Trimming

Due to the ongoing success of the South East Coachworks apprenticeship scheme and the KOSMedia Business Challenge Award, we need to expand our upholstery and trimming service and have the following positions available:

Apprentices – a unique opportunity to join a fun and friendly team at South East Coachworks Limited. You will learn skills of vehicle trim and upholstery as well as furnishings, carpentry and furniture making.

Tutors – We are City and Guilds approved and are looking for qualified teachers to move the apprenticeship program forward.

If you are interested in a position with South East Coachworks please visit our website www.southeastcoachworks.co.uk and complete the online application form or apply in writing to South East Coachworks Limited, The Old Coach Station, 38 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PE. Tel: 01795 534888. Fax: 01795 536888.



it will never be just another job

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Mental Health Employment and Vocational Team Leader Ref: 689/E
£22,344-£25,589 Gravesend

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a team of staff and service users to operate a quality Employment and Vocational Service. The Team Leader will monitor the quality of the service provided, undertaking formal and informal evaluations and making recommendations for development, as well as ensuring contract and organisational goals are met. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a commitment to supporting individuals, with mental health issues, to identify and achieve their paid employment aspirations.

How to apply....

Closing date 6th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref. We also have large type/ Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in

BOBBING AND STROOD

www.achuk.com

BOBBING

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £15,250

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £13,250

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £13,250

STROOD

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £15,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com
Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com
or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.



Psychological Therapist

£21,519 – £27,849 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM
PART TIME, 25 HOURS PER WEEK • EVENINGS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN FAVERSHAM, WORKING ACROSS CANTERBURY & COASTAL DISTRICT

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level. Knowledge and skills in cognitive behavioural therapy, EMDR, interpersonal therapy and couple work are highly desirable and you should be eligible for either BACP/BABCP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Lesley Rogers, Clinical Manager on 01795 590635 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 644.

Closing date: 16 April 2010. Interview date: 30 April 2010 in Faversham.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



You Missed It !!!

6 weeks ago we advertised probably the **BEST** job ever.

The lucky candidates are now making in excess of **£700+ p.w.** We now need 5 more.
If you have a car and phone, call for more info -

0800 840 1289

No experience necessary as full training can be provided.

Due to expansion Night Staff

required for busy residential home.
Good rates of pay and bonus.
NVQ Training available.

Please ring
Debbie or Karen

01732 822215
from Monday



We are a new company who will be opening our Ashford workshop at the end of May and we are looking for two key people to grow with us.

Senior Vehicle Technician (Foreman elect)

Professional and ambitious technician.

The successful candidate will be fully skilled, have a wide and deep knowledge of current vehicles, proven diagnostic ability, and be able to deliver consistently high quality results. MOT tester status is essential.

Permanent position

Initially £22-£25k + profit share ote 30k+

Vehicle Technician

Fully skilled with good knowledge of current vehicles, you must be able to work efficiently and effectively as part of our small team.

MOT tester status would be an advantage.

Permanent position

Initially £18-£21k + profit share ote £26k+

Both successful candidates have the opportunity to advance within the company
To apply, please forward your CV via email to David Ramsey:

mail@aaashford.co.uk

To advertise in this section



01303 817040

ABC ELECTRICALLY BIASED SITE SUPERVISOR

required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field.

Negotiated Package.

Computer experience essential.

Must be willing to work away from home.

**E-mailed C.V. applications only to
smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk
no agencies, no telephone calls**



Plate Maker: temporary cover for sickness leave

Description:

Working within a small Studio Team, you will be responsible for making and checking both Litho and Flexo plates and liaising with Production / planning staff. The role is methodical and quality focused requiring a good eye for detail.

Specific tasks:

- Outputting plates
- Checking quality
- Quality Assurance checks and paperwork
- Monitoring Material stocks and refilling equipment with new material.

In addition to this, the following skills are an advantage:

- Apple Mac experience
- Indigo Digital Press experience.

Closing Date:

1st April 2010

Contact Details:

Please send CV's to:
Matt Knight - mnknight@cclind.com
CCL Label (Ashford) Limited
Foster Road, Sevington
Ashford, Kent TN24 0SH

Sparshatts of Kent Ltd

Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers

Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot.

Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving license.

Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berlaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd,

Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN.

Email: donna.berlaque@mercedes.co.uk



KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Charity Reg. No. 239992

Based at Tyland Barn Headquarters Maidstone

**This 11 months role is unsalaried but offers
a training budget (3 days per week)**

Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement

Closing Date: Thursday 8th April 2010

Interview Date: Tuesday 20th April 2010

Based at **Mayton Oast, near Canterbury**

The role: an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and practical experience by assisting the Community Engagement Officer with the delivery of education and community activities at Blean Woodlands. Some weekend/evening work may be involved.

You: will have a professional, mature approach and possess the ability to communicate effectively with the public. Enthusiasm for working with young people and adults in a variety of settings is essential, as is your interest in environmental issues.

Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent and Medway. This post requires an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Contact details:

To discuss this post please contact Paul Dorrington on 01622 662012 or Kathryn Barton 01227 719506. For an application pack please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or telephone Dot Hughes 01622 662012, email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Kent Wildlife Trust has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community

Young Persons' Substance Misuse Worker 'Changes' Dual Diagnosis Project

£21,519 – £27,849 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED IN GRAVESEND, COVERS DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND AREAS.
FIXED TERM UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. KCA Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service provides specialist drug and alcohol interventions for young people aged 10 – 18, their parents/carers and other agencies.

Already established in East Kent, this project is expanding into West Kent supporting young offenders who present with both substance misuse and mental health concerns. The project will be delivered in collaboration with the local Youth Offending Team and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We require an experienced practitioner to offer intensive packages of community support to young people and their families/carers. The emphasis is on multi-agency intervention and delivering creative care packages which meet identified needs.

You must have significant experience of working with young people with complex needs including substance misuse issues. Relevant professional training is essential.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally please contact Sarah Mills on 01795 590635.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 637.

Closing date: 6 April 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

Versatile Field Service Engineer required for a small company based in Sevenoaks.
Duties to include the Service and Calibration of Laboratory Equipment.

This is an interesting as well as very responsible position. The ideal candidate would need to be flexible, forward thinking and organised.

Electro-mechanical and refrigeration experience essential.
Must be prepared to travel throughout UK
To apply please telephone
01732 743901

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Earn **£57.60-£63.72** for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay, interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm.

Flexible work, no previous experience – full training given.
NO SELLING. A good standard of English is required, along with landline phone and your own transport. To apply call or download an application form from our website. Please quote Reference No. 67935C on all applications.

Call **020 8433 4491**

www.kantaroperations.com

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IPS INTERNATIONAL Ltd**QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER**

IPS International is a successful and expanding training business based in Rochester. We train in the fields of Engineering and Manufacturing, Social Care, Management and Business Services. Funded training is provided for apprentices and adults together with commercial training in all areas of the business.

This new role involves the development and co-ordination of quality and systems improvement throughout the business and the introduction of performance measures to meet the requirements of Government funding, Ofsted and the marketplace.

Initially the role will include:

- Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures.
- Developing new policies and procedures.
- Conducting internal audits.
- Co-ordinating the production of Self Assessment Reports.
- Networking with other training providers on quality issues.
- Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies.
- Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates.

The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records.

To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010.

IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults

IPS International Ltd
Sir Thomas Longley Road
Medway City Estate, Rochester
Kent, ME2 4DU
E: theoffice@IPS-International.com

**Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician**

Due to pending retirement we are looking for a permanent, full time technician to join our busy Engineering Department. The ideal candidate will be reliable, self motivated and flexible.

You must be experienced in-

- Body repairs (filling/ reshaping etc.)
- Panel work
- Paint refinishing (able to apply 2 pack paints)
- Welding
- Steel repairs/ fabrication

Salary dependant on level of experience.

Please email your cv to sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk
or post to **The Travel Centre,**
Gillingham, Kent. ME8 6HW

**LAURA ASHLEY**

We currently have the following vacancies:

ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS
HOME/FASHION MANAGER - BLUEWATER
MANAGER - ORPINGTON

Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment.

If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to:

Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley,
62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY
Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer
www.laurashley.com

Have you thought about a new and rewarding career?

All Seasons is expanding and looking for carers in your area to join our teams in providing domiciliary care and support services in the community.

Experience is desirable but not essential as training will be given. Own transport preferable.

You must be able to work either early mornings or evenings and some weekends.



all seasons
care services



Top rated by CQC inspectors



For further
information and
an application
pack call

01227 265899

or visit

www.allseasons.org.uk

Head Office:
All Seasons (Kent) Ltd,
Kent Enterprise House
1 The Links, Home Bay
Kent CT6 7QD
Reg. Co. No. 6136620

SALES PEOPLE REQUIRED

We are looking for exceptional sales people for a number of field and telephone sales positions
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KOS Media is one of the fastest growing independent multi media companies serving the Kent county. We publish 14 weekly newspapers including the flagship Kent on Sunday together with seasonal /annual magazines and 20 online news sites.

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Award Winning Company

WAIT STAFF

wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate.
Experience essential.
Must be able to work weekends and evenings.
Please send CV to
info@ageandsons.co.uk

**Experienced Floor manager/ess
and bar and wait staff**
Required at very busy
Café restaurant at Ramsgate Sea front
For more information please call
Heather – 07966 295070
Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Littlebourne House Care Home
A busy family run home require dedicated
Care Staff - Full time 12 hour shifts
Experience not essential as training provided
Pay according to experience and qualifications
also
Domestic/Cleaners - Full time
Please call Amanda
01227 721527

Domestic Help
20 hours per week
and also a
Part-Time Cook
12 hours per week
required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea
For more information please contact Debbie or Diane
Tel: 01843 831491

it will never be just another job

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Supported Living Support Worker (12 month contract) **Ref: 690/E**
£16,040-£16,896 pro rata 1x PT 16 hrs **Thanet**

We are looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated individual to join our supported living team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging, and rewarding apply now. Full driving licence required.

How to apply....

Closing date 6th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit **www.mcch.co.uk** or email us for an application form at **jobs@mcch.co.uk** alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: **www.jobsforkent.co.uk**

KOSMEDIA

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.ukOnline: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status
Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons

Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405



THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status

Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF

Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons

Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405

email: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk>

Number on roll:
840

Are you a UK graduate in Science or Business?

Are you interested in a career in teaching?

We are delighted to be offering two GTP placements, one in Science and one in Business, under the GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME at Thamesview School for a September 2010 start. The placement is run in conjunction with Christ Church College University, Canterbury and leads to full Qualified Teacher Status on successful completion of the training programme.

Thamesview is an improving school with specialist Status for Business and Enterprise. We are at an exciting time in the school's development: we have just produced the best GCSE results at 67% A*-C, which have increased year on year for the last six years, we have acquired specialist school's status in Business & Enterprise, and have a £1.2 million Vocational Centre on site which opened in 2006.

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so our newly designed school will open in July 2010. E-learning is an exciting area of development for us, as we will have over £1m spent on future technology ICT throughout our new school. All teachers already have a laptop, classrooms equipped with SMART whiteboards and we have a generous staff development (CPD) commitment. We actively encourage leadership and progression opportunities for staff. With all these initiatives we are entering a new era of teaching and learning and are a really motivated school.

The school is very conveniently located – 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think this sounds like an exciting opportunity, please telephone: 01474 566552 ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

CV's without an application form will not be accepted.

Successful candidates will be invited for interview at the school and our recommendations will then be passed to Christ Church College University, Canterbury. The University will then select candidates for further interview.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

Inclusion Manager

Required for April 2010

37 hour per week (full time)

40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks)

KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa

Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa

Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day

Meetings as and when required after school

We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations;
- be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students;
- be confident to work independently and multi-task;
- have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team
- Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students;
- lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students;
- be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues;
- be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects.

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit.

CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply.

If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 20th April 2010

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

11- 16 Mixed
High School

Closing date:
22nd March

Interviews:
week beginning
29th March

DATA MANAGER

Grade: **C1 - Salary: £16,830 - £22,221 per annum**
 Hours: **37 hours per week - 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 36 minute lunch break**
 Location: **Strood Academy, Carnation Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2SX**
 Tel: **01634 717121**
 e-mail: **info@stroodacademy.org**

We are looking to appoint as soon as possible a Data Manager to create oversee and develop the Academy's use of data to help drive Academy improvement. You will have excellent communication, numerical and organisational skills. You will also have a strong working knowledge of a range of ICT software including Microsoft Office, SIMS and in particular Excel.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To apply, visit www.stroodacademy.org and download an application form and job description and find out further information about us.

Closing Date: **9th April 2010**

Interviews: **w/c 19th April 2010**



To advertise in this section

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Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
 and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

**Literacy/ LRC Coordinator**

We are seeking to appoint a forward thinking and creative Literacy/LRC Coordinator to work in our vibrant school community. The successful candidate will lead the development of Literacy across the Academy, as well as having the opportunity to implement their own vision for the Learning Resource Centre within the supportive environment of our Specialism for Business & Enterprise.

They will have proven experience of working with children in an educational setting, as well as of planning, monitoring and evaluating initiatives. Experience of working within a Learning Resource Centre or Library would be an advantage, but is not essential.

For further details and an application pack please contact Marion Wigington on 01227 710392 or at m.wigington@spireacademy.com

Closing date: Noon, Friday 26th March 2010

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

**Gravesend Grammar School for Girls**

A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE

Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.ggsg.org.uk

email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover)

Required from June 2010, Main Professional Grade

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed English teacher to cover maternity leave from 7th June to December 2010. The job provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious teacher who is able to demonstrate a positive and creative approach in the classroom and contribute to the ongoing success of the English Faculty. The ideal candidate will be able to teach English to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, although it may be possible to adjust the timetable to suit individual strengths and experiences. The ability to teach Media Studies A' Level would be an advantage, although not essential.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs.
 Completed forms should be returned by **Monday 29th March 2010** to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

www.ggsg.org.uk

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**TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FULL TIME COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE**

A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and supportive PE dept. of well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports.

Application forms are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk) or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240.

Closing date 31st March 2010.

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Agency

Nursery Vacancies

Dawn to Dusk Day Nurseries Swanley Ltd a well established private company and also operating an Out of School Club with a further branch in Maidstone, have the following vacancies.

Level II Nursery Nurse

We are looking for someone with a positive attitude who can work well as part of a team. Full support for training towards level III, will be given - 40hrs a week.

After School Club Assistant - P/t

This position is to work in our Dusksies Schools Out Club. Appropriate experience is required, a play work certificate preferred but not essential as training can be given. This is a part time position, Monday - Friday - Hours to be agreed.

To arrange an interview
please telephone Janice Elliott on

01322 660330

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Art and Design

Plate Maker

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 1st April 2010
 Plate Maker: temporary cover for sickness leave Description: Working within a small Studio Team, you will be responsible for making and checking both Litho and Flexo plates and liaising with Production / planning staff. The role is methodical and quality focused requiring a good eye for detail. Specific tasks: • Outputting plates • Checking quality • Quality Assurance checks and paperwork • Monitoring Material stocks and refilling equipment with new material. In addition to this, the following skills are an advantage: • Apple Mac experience • Indigo Digital Press experience. Contact Details: Please send CV's to: Matt Knight - mknight@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited Foster Road, Sevington Ashford, Kent TN24 0SH.
To apply/more information: CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email mknight@cclind.com

Catering, Hospitality

Experienced Floor manager/ess

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
 Experienced Floor manager/ess and bar and wait staff Required at very busy Café restaurant at Ramsgate Sea front. For more information please call Heather - 07966 295070 Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 07966 295070
 Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

WAITING STAFF

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
 PART TIME WAITING STAFF Required for The Beacon, 1.5miles from Tunbridge Wells. Experienced preferred. Call Diego on 01892 524252.
To apply/more information: Beacon (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01892 524252
 Email beaconhotel@btopenworld.com

WAIT STAFF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
 WAIT STAFF wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate. Experience essential. Must be able to work weekends and evenings. Please send CV to info@ageandsons.co.uk
To apply/more information: Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Assistant Chef

Ashford
Salary: TBA
 Assistant Chef required for busy country pub with good reputation for fine food. Apply to Eric or Helen (between 9 & 12 noon). Tel: 01303 844663.
To apply/more information: Jack Daw Inn
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01303 844663
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part time Cook

Thanet
Salary: TBA
 Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information. Please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.

To apply/more information: Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01843 831491
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CHEF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
 A keen enthusiastic CHEF required at busy café restaurant at Ramsgate seafront For more information please call Heather - 07966 295070 or Andy - 07796 858617 Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Market Research Interviewers

Kent
Salary: £57.60-£63.72
 Market Research Interviewers Earn £57.60-£63.72 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay, interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm. Flexible work, no previous experience - full training given. NO SELLING. A good standard of English is required, along with landline phone and your own transport. To apply call or download an application form from our website. Please quote Reference No. 6793SC on all applications. Call 020 8433 4491 www.kantaroperations.com We are an equal opportunities employer. KANTAR OPERATIONS.
To apply/more information: Kantar Operations
Quoting Job Ref: 6793SC
 Tel: 020 8433 4491
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
 No Bank Holidays, Weekends or Evenings Home Cleaning Company requires FULL TIME STAFF Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm Drivers only 01732 359500.
To apply/more information: Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01732 359500
 Email merrymaidsales@btconnect.com

Weekend Domestic cleaner

Faversham
Salary: TBA
 Faversham Residential Home Requires a Weekend Domestic cleaner 9am - 2pm For further details Please telephone 01795 532629 Between 10am - 4pm.
To apply/more information: Carnalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01795 532629
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic Help

Thanet
Salary: TBA
 Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information. Please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information: Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01843 831491
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 31st March 2010
 TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FULL TIME - COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports. Further details of this post and an application form are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk) or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240.
To apply/more information: Hugh Christie Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240
 Email jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

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Medway
Salary: Expenses Paid
 Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.
 VOLUNTEERS We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid. Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
To apply/more information: Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01634 818305
 Email colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 29th March 2010
 Gravesend Grammar School for Girls TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover) Required from June 2010 Main Professional Grade We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed English teacher to cover maternity leave from 7th June to December 2010. The job provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious teacher who is able to demonstrate a positive and creative approach in the classroom and contribute to the ongoing success of the English Faculty. The ideal candidate will be able to teach English to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, although it may be possible to adjust the timetable to suit individual strengths and experiences. The ability to teach Media Studies A' Level would be an advantage, although not essential. The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal

professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers. We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009. Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by Monday 29th March 2010 to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher. A Specialist Science and Language College Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.gsgs.org.uk email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. www.gsgs.org.uk
To apply/more information: Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01474 352896
 Email enquiries@gsgs.org.uk

Data Manager

Medway
Salary: £16,830 - £22,221 per annum
Closing Date: 9th April 2010
 Data Manager Grade: C1 - **Salary:** £16,830 - £22,221 per annum Hours: 37 hours per week - 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 36 minute lunch break Location: Strood Academy Camnaton Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2, 2SX Tel: 01634 717121 e-mail: info@stroodacademy.org. We are looking to appoint as soon as possible a Data Manager to create oversee and develop the Academy's use of data to help drive Academy improvement. You will have excellent communication, numerical and organisational skills. You will also have a strong working knowledge of a range of ICT software including Microsoft Excel, SIMS and in particular Excel. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. To apply, visit www.stroodacademy.org and download an application form and job description and find out further information about us. Interviews: w/c 19th April 2010.
To apply/more information: Strood Academy
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
 Tel: 01634 717121
 Email info@stroodacademy.org

Inclusion Manger

Gravesend
Salary: £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa
Closing Date: 20th April 2010
 Inclusion Manger Required for April 2010 37 hour per week (full time) 40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks) KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day Meetings as and when required after school We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must: • Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations; • be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students; • be confident to work independently and multi-

task; • have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team • Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students; • lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students; • be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues; • be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks. After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'. All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects. We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit. CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk The school is very conveniently located - 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.
To apply/more information: Thames View Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

Kent
Salary: TBA
 Electrically Biased Site Supervisor required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field. Negotiated Package. Computer experience essential. Must be willing to work away from home. E-mailed C.V. applications only to smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk NO AGENCIES NO TELEPHONE CALLS.
To apply/more information: Avenue Building Company Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
 FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER Versatile Field Service Engineer required for a small company based in Sevenoaks. Duties to include the Service and Calibration of Laboratory Equipment. This is an interesting

as well as very responsible position. The ideal candidate would need to be flexible, forward thinking and organised. Electro-mechanical and refrigeration experience essential. Must be prepared to travel throughout UK To apply please Telephone: 01732 743901.
To apply/more information: LMS Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01732 743901
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Graduate, Trainees

Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement

Canterbury
Salary: Unsalaries but offers a training budget
Closing Date: Thursday 8th April 2010
 This 11 months role is unsalaried but offers a training budget (3 days per week) Job Title: Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement. Interview Date: Tuesday 20th April 2010 Based at Mayton Oast, near Canterbury The role: an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and practical experience by assisting the Community Engagement Officer with the delivery of education and community activities at Bleau Woodlands. Some weekend/evening work may be involved. You: will have a professional, mature approach and possess the ability to communicate effectively with the public. Enthusiasm for working with young people and adults in a variety of settings is essential, as is your interest in environmental issues. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent and Medway. This post requires an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. Contact details: To discuss this post please contact Paul Dorrington on 01622 662012 or Kathryn Barton 01227 719506. For an application pack please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or telephone Dot Hughes 01622 662012, email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk Kent Wildlife Trust has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Tel: 01622 662012
 Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

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Management, Senior Positions

Commercial Manager

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
 Commercial Manager An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be

able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQO's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feed back. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme. Please apply in writing to Commercial, PO Box 462, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 1AW.
To apply/more information: Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

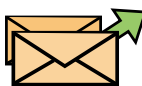
QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER

Medway
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 14th April 2010
 IPS INTERNATIONAL LTD QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER IPS International is a successful and expanding training business based in Rochester. We train in the fields of Engineering and Manufacturing, Social Care, Management and Business Services. Funded training is provided for apprentices and adults together with commercial training in all areas of the business. This new role involves the development and co-ordination of quality and systems improvement throughout the business and the introduction of performance measures to meet the requirements of Government funding, Ofsted and the marketplace. Initially the role will include: • Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures. • Developing new policies and procedures. • Conducting internal audits. • Co-ordinating the production of Self Assessment Reports. • Networking with other training providers on quality issues. • Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies. • Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates. The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records. To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010. IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults IPS International Ltd Sir Thomas Longley Road Medway City Estate, Rochester Kent, ME2 4DU E: theoffice@IPS-International.com
To apply/more information: IPS International Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
 Email theoffice@IPS-International.com

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing Managers

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salaries + excellent benefits
 Permanent and Fixed Term Opportunities. Be inspired. First of all, by a leading direct marketing brand that's driven by imaginative thinking, new ideas and innovation. A team of



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people who work together to create and deliver fresh marketing solutions and generate outstanding results. Secondly, our superb location. You'll be based in a tranquil open parkland setting, right next to the sea. And finally, by this exciting opportunity to raise your career profile with a hugely successful brand which incorporates Personal Finance and Insurance. In return for your hard work, there's excellent support, training and development, not to mention superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, crèche, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. You'll have a relevant professional qualification and experience of direct marketing gained in either financial services or insurance. In addition, you'll also have experience of managing a busy team. So if you're brimming with ideas and have a 'right first time' approach, then we'd like to hear from you. To apply, please write enclosing your CV and current remuneration details to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SPF380/JFK.

To apply/more information: Sally-Jane Plenge
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SPF380/JFK
Email
human.resources@saga.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Trainee Service Advisor x 2

Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email donna.berliaque@mercedes.co.uk

Service Advisor

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Sparshatts of Kent Ltd Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot. Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving licence. Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berliaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd, Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN. Email: donna.berliaque@mercedes.co.uk
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email donna.berliaque@mercedes.co.uk

Part Time Drivers and Child Supervisors

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Part Time Drivers & Child Supervisors required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866.
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email gmstravel@btconnect.com

Weekend Taxi Drivers

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866.
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email gmstravel@btconnect.com

Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician

Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Kings Ferry
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Home Carers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April 2010
Home Carers Audley Care is seeking individuals to deliver high quality care and domestic support to our clients living in their own homes in and around the Maidstone area. Successful candidates will have their own transport, ideally have experience working in a care environment as well as having, or be willing to work towards, an NVQ2 qualification. In return we offer good hourly rates, flexible working hours, comprehensive training and an exciting career opportunity to join this rapidly expanding business. To apply or for further information please contact Jane Wilson on 01622 633101 or email jane.w@audleycare.co.uk We have various shifts to fulfil (inc. days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays) therefore when applying please state your preferred days and hours of work. Closing date: Thursday 1 April 2010 An enhanced CRB check will be undertaken for successful applicants.
To apply/more information: Audley Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 633101
Email jane.w@audleycare.co.uk

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

Tonbridge
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
WANT A NEW CAREER WITH FULL-TIME HOURS? COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED IN TONBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS & TUNBRIDGE WELLS o Self Employed basis only o £8.25 to £10.00 per hour o Full-time starting at 7am o You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own o Must have own car and phone o Uniform provided o Full Training programme available Experience preferred but not essential. All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check. CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW www.terrablu.co.uk An Investor in People Employer.
To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard@terrablu.co.uk

Sessional Support Workers

Ashford
Salary: £8.30 -£9.46 per hour
Closing Date: 1st April 2010
Sessional Support Workers £8.30 -£9.46 per hour Based in Ashford Contract from April

2010 to March 2011 (subject to funding) Thanet Children's Participation Project works with children and young people to enable them to engage in positive activities, contributing to their communities and making their voices and opinions heard. We're looking to expand our team of fun, creative and approachable Disability Support Workers. As a Sessional Worker your focus will be to provide support and positive play and leisure experiences for children and young people with disabilities, in a scheme that runs on 2 weekend days per month, 15 days during the school summer holidays, and an additional 2.5 days during the October half term. You'll need to have experience of working with children and young people with disabilities, knowledge and understanding of the issues facing disabled children and young people, and the ability to engage with young people using participative methods in an informal setting. Reliability and punctuality are a critical element of this role. You'll be educated to GCSE standard (or equivalent). Hours for this post will be variable and appointment to be of an enhanced CRB disclosure. For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Donna Ramm on 01843 596659. As well as a strong commitment to your development, we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pension, childcare vouchers and flexible working. To apply, please visit www.playourpart.co.uk or call us on 0121 362 8633 quoting reference number S01718/KS. Closing date: 1st April 2010. All recruitment documents are available in alternative formats. Please note that CVs will not be accepted. The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better. We work with children across the country, providing the right support at the right time. We commissioned The Good Childhood/Inquiry; the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood. Its aims were to renew society's understanding of modern childhood and to inform, improve and inspire all our relationships with children. Charity Registration No. 221124 We strive to be an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information: Childrens Society
Quoting Job Ref: S01718/KS
Tel: 0121 362 8633
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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01303 817040

Young Persons' Substance Misuse Worker

Gravesend
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849
Closing Date: 6 April 2010
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 637
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Psychological Therapist

Faversham
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA
Closing Date: 16 April 2010

Psychological Therapist £21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM PART TIME, 25 HOURS PER WEEK EVENINGS MAY BE REQUIRED BASED INFAVERSHAM, WORKINGACROSS CANTERBURY & COASTAL DISTRICT KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration. We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service. You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level. Knowledge and skills in cognitive behavioural therapy, EMDR, interpersonal therapy and couple work are highly desirable and you should be eligible for either BACP/BABCP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme. For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Lesley Rogers, Clinical Manager on 01795 590212 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 644. Closing date: 16 April 2010. Interview date: 30 April 2010 in Faversham. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 644
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Mental Health Employment and Vocational Team Leader

Gravesend
Salary: £22,344-£25,589
Closing Date: 6th April 2010
To apply/more information: MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 689/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louse.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louse.burrows@achuk.com

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louse.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louse.burrows@achuk.com

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louse.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louse.burrows@achuk.com

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Medway
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louse.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: Quex Museum Enterprises Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: QF010
Tel: 07890 431999
Email quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com

Due to expansion Night Staff required for busy Residential home good rates of pay and bonus NVQ training available. Please ring Debbie Or Karen on 01732 822215.
To apply/more information: Holywell Park Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 822215
Email debbieholywell@aol.com

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Reps

Kent
Salary: £700+ pw OTE
You Missed It !!! 6 weeks ago we advertised probably the BEST job ever. The lucky candidates are now making in excess of £700+ pw OTE. We now need 5 more. If you have a car and phone, call for more info - 0800 840 1289 No experience necessary as full training can be provided.
To apply/more information: Anglian Home Improvements
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 840 1289
Email clare.jackson@angliangroup.com

Sales Position

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Quex Park Estates Quex Foods Representative to cover the Kent area is urgently required for our exciting new food venture. Sales experience in the food industry is preferred but not essential. Enthusiasm, tenacity, confidence, & self motivation will be essential in this role to Service our existing clients & develop new retail outlets. *Flexible working hours to suit excellent candidate *Remuneration by negotiation For Immediate start. Apply with CV via email to: quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com quoting ref: QF010. To discuss please phone Angie Curwen on 07890 431999.
To apply/more information: Quex Museum Enterprises Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: QF010
Tel: 07890 431999
Email quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com

Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/evening/summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) We need enthusiastic people with a flair for communication, to recruit new members, usually in your local area, using a soft approach. Sales/fundraising experience desirable. Please apply as soon as possible interview date to be notified. For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) Generous

additional commission paid Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/evening/summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) In addition to the above skills you will lead and motivate your Door-to-Door team. You will have administrative, organisational and leadership skills. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent & Medway supported by over 30,000 members. Interviews will be held on 31st March 2010 For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

INBOUND AND OUTBOUND SALES

Folkestone
Salary: £10,856 - £13,000+
Closing Date: 9 April 2010
OPPORTUNITIES IN INBOUND AND OUTBOUND SALES Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000+ • OTE £16k - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission) Excellent benefits packages! Folkestone and Thanet It's real people we are after... people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a genuine rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over. And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. What's more, it means a friendly working environment - as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job. The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS375/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website. Closing date: 9 April 2010. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information: Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS375/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

MANAGER

Orpington
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER - BLUEWATER MANAGER - ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7. careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information: Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

BATHROOM DESIGNER

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
BATHROOM DESIGNER & TRAINEE BATHROOM DESIGNER Our showroom in Tunbridge Wells requires showroom based innovative, yet practical design/sales consultants. You will: Help customers explore their needs, stimulate their imagination and create bathrooms that meet their every expectation. You need: To be a good communicator. To have excellent drawing skills. To work under pressure and unsupervised. To attend site visits. To work flexibly. To have a current driving licence. We offer: A good salary package plus commission Extensive training and an opportunity to excel at the highest level in bathroom design. Applications in writing marked Private & Confidential to: Colin Payne Ripples 12 Union Square Eridge Road Tunbridge Wells TN4 8HE cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk www.ripples.ltd.uk
To apply/more information: Ripples Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00139/FL – 122 Wateringbury Road East Malling West Malling Kent ME19 6JD – Mr Mathew Davis is applying for change of use of agricultural land to residential use, erection of agricultural fencing, erection of oak framed garage, vehicular crossover, driveway and gates. Reason: DEPART

TM/10/00540/FL – 2 Dukes Place Farm Cottages Mereworth Road West Peckham Maidstone Kent ME18 5JH – Mr & Mrs N Williams are applying for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of part two storey/part single storey side extension and front porch. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00516/FL – Pippin Borough Green Road Wrotham Sevenoaks TN15 7RA – Ms Alison Riley is applying to convert integral garage to habitable room and internal and external alterations. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00353/FL – 23 Upper Spring Lane Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DP – Mr Nield is applying for two rear dormers and two front rooflights. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:

CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button “Online Planning” (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council’s website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 18 April 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

28 March 2010



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00751/HOUSE Beaufort Cottage Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Conversion of garage into habitable living space (CA)

10/00838/HOUSE Wheelwrights House The Street, Benenden
- Demolition of existing outbuilding and wall. Erection of extension of existing conservatory (CA)

10/00839/CAC Wheelwrights House The Street, Benenden
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing outbuilding and wall. (CA)

10/00873/HOUSE Mill Cottage Penshurst Road, Bidborough
- Two-storey side extension, porch alterations, internal and external refurbishment (LB)

10/00874/LBC Mill Cottage Penshurst Road, Bidborough
- Listed Building Consent - Two-storey side extension, porch alterations, internal and external refurbishment (LB)

10/00883/LBC Hazelden Farmhouse Marden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Move oil boiler from existing location to new utility room; Move hot water tank from existing location to existing cupboard in order to reduce pipe runs (LB)

10/00885/LBC Hazelden Farmhouse Marden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Introduction of shower to the master en-suite (LB)

10/00816/HOUSE Satis Mount Ephraim, Culverden
- Demolition of existing extension (one storey) and erection of two storey extension (CA)

10/00879/HOUSE Rock Farm Oast Grandshore Lane, Frittenden
- Single storey side extension (LB)

10/00601/FUL The Annexe Wellington House, Hawkhurst
- Retrospective: Change of use of annexe to holiday let plus erection of picket fence (LB)

10/00605/LBC The Annexe Wellington House, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of annexe to use as a holiday let (LB)

10/00735/HOUSE Summerhill Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst
- Demolition of garage and carport and construction of replacement detached double garage (CA)

10/00856/HOUSE Steam Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst
- Change of use of lower ground floor store to part of detached annex living accommodation (LB)

10/00860/LBC Steam Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Change of use of lower ground floor store to part of detached annex living accommodation (LB)

10/00636/HOUSE Mouseden Cottage Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
- Extension of utility room to form entrance porch (LB)

10/00638/LBC Mouseden Cottage Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Extension of utility room to form entrance porch (LB)

10/00566/FUL Nevill House 15 Nevill Street, Pantiles & St Marks
- Variation of condition 4 of TW/08/03901 - sound insulation (CA)

10/00842/FUL 21 Vale Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of first floor from A2 to D2 so it can be used as a personal training studio (CA)

10/00864/HOUSE The Old Bothy Pembury Road, Park
- Demolition of existing garage, greenhouse and garden house and erection of two storey and single storey extension to house and new detached garage and garden house (CA)

10/00865/CAC The Old Bothy Pembury Road, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing garage, greenhouse and garden house (CA)

10/00793/FUL 29 Highfield Road Southborough, Southborough And High Brooms
- (And land rear of 24 North Farm Road) Construction of 3 terraced houses with 7 car parking spaces (PROW)

10/00862/FUL The Cricket Ground The Common, Southborough North
- Portable cricket practice net and new artificial cricket pitch (CA)

10/00787/HOUSE Sunset Cottage 3 Penshurst Road, Speldhurst
- Rear single-storey extension (CA)

10/00894/LBC Hollands Farmhouse Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing floor construction with solid insulated floor construction (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 March 2010



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Drivers only
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**PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR A NEW
PREMISES LICENCE**

I, Bindraman Rai hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. Sale of alcohol by retail
In respect of the premises situated at 46, Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2RH known by the sign of Evergreen Nepalese Shop
The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8HR during normal office hours.
Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 23rd April 2010.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION
OF A PREMISES LICENCE**

I, Samson Sellers hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ for variation of the following licensable activities;

1. The hours for sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment
The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 16th April 2010.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.



**HIGHWAYS AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY
THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981**

1. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) ORDER 20..
2. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) (DETRUNKING) ORDER 20..
3. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING SIDE ROADS) ORDER 20..
4. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..
5. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING SIDE ROADS) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..
6. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING SLIP ROADS) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..
7. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING) (DETRUNKING) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..
8. THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Public Local Inquiries will be held into:

- a) the Secretary of State for Transport’s proposals for the Orders listed above; and
- b) the objections which have been made in connection with these proposals.

A person nominated by the Planning Inspectorate will hold Public Local Inquiries into the Orders listed above.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that in accordance with Rule 5(2) of the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1994 and Rule 4(a) of the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007, a local Pre-Inquiries Meeting will be held into the Secretary of State’s proposal for the Orders listed above by the person nominated to hold the Public Local Inquiries at a time, date and venue to be advised. All persons with an interest in the Public Local Inquiries are invited to attend.

The Secretary of State for Transport will publish a further notice which will be in accordance with Rule 10 of the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1994 in the case of the Orders numbered 1 to 7 and Rule 10 of the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007 in the case of the Order numbered 8 above. That notice will include details of the Orders, which are the subject of the public inquiries, and explain the procedures to be followed for anyone who wishes to appear and to give evidence, or submit alternative proposals.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT direct that any person who intends at the Inquiries to submit –

- (a) that any highway or proposed highway to which the draft Order at 1 above relates should follow an alternative route, or
- (b) that instead of improving, diverting or altering a highway in accordance with the draft Side Roads at 3 above, a new highway should be constructed on a particular route,

shall send to them at the Highways Agency, Major Projects South, Room 2A, Federated House, London Road, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1SZ not later than 3 May 2010 sufficient information about the alternative route or the route of the new highway to enable it to be identified. Failure to comply with this direction will entitle the person holding the Inquiries and the Secretaries of State to disregard so much of any objection as consists of such a submission.

The contact for any further information relating to this notice is Graham Link Tel: 01306 878122.
Email: graham.link@highways.gsi.gov.uk

PAUL ARNOLD
Highways Agency
Federated House,
London Road
Dorking
Surrey
RH4 1SZ

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HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on the A20 Maidstone Road, Ashford on or after 12 April 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a Temporary Mandatory Speed Limit of 40 mph from the National Speed Limit sign north west of the junction with Orchard Heights, for a distance of 230 metres on each carriageway.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

HEATH LANE AND WILLOW ROAD (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath between Heath Lane and Willow Road.

The Order will become effective on 29th March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 6 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Willow Road, Blackmans Close and Heath Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of high voltage cables.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement and potential repairs to a damaged railway bridge, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Dover on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 23 weeks or until the works are complete.

The roads and extent of the closures and alternative routes are as defined in the schedule to this Order, as shown below.

Road Name:	St Radigunds Road
Extent:	Between the junctions with Magdala Road and Primrose Place
Dates:	29 March 2010 for up to 3 weeks
Diversion:	Magdala Road, Coombe Valley Road, Primrose Road and Primrose Place
Road Name:	Magdala Road
Extent:	for its entire length
Dates:	12 April 2010 for up to 4 weeks
Diversion:	Northbound via Coombe Valley Road, London Road and St Radigund's Road Southbound via St Radigund's Road, Primrose Place, Primrose Road and Coombe Valley Road
Road Name:	Coombe Valley Road
Extent:	Between the junctions with London Road and Edgar Road
Dates:	10 May 2010 for up to 16 weeks
Diversion:	Coombe Valley Road, Barwick Road, St Radigund's Road, Bunkers Hill Road, Hillside Road, Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road, Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and London Road.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham near West Lodge.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between 21:00 – 06:00 Hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Manor Lane and Michaels Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT Openreach works.

HONEYPOT LANE, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Honeypot Lane, Kemsing from Noahs Ark to entrance to Kemsing Station.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Noahs Ark Seal, Fullers Street Seal, Watery Lane Seal, Watery Lane Kemsing and Honeypot Lane Kemsing.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CULLINGS HILL, ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cabling works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Cullings Hill, Elham on or after 29 March 2010, for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed from in the vicinity of Manor Cottage. There will be no access for through traffic. The alternative route will be via High Street and The Row.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works for the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on Various Roads, Ramsgate on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 18 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the following sections of road, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

- a) **A299 Canterbury Road West**, between the termination of the 50 mph speed limit at Minster Roundabout and the existing 30 mph speed limit west of Cliffsend.
- b) **A299 Canterbury Road West**, between the De-restriction Sign east of Cliffsend up to and including the 'Lord of the Manor' roundabouts junction with Canterbury Road East and Ramsgate Road.
- c) **A299 Canterbury Road East** from the junction with the A256 Lord of the Manor roundabout to the existing 40 mph limit.
- d) **Haine Road** for a distance of 100 metres north east of the Lord of the Manor roundabout
- e) **A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate**, between the Lord of the Manor roundabouts and the 40 mph speed limit north of the junction of Cliffsend Road

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

A256 RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works for the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 18 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the section of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, between the termination of the 50 mph speed limit south of Richborough roundabout to the de-restriction sign north of Ebbsfleet Lane, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order

HARBOUR STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of repairs to areas of carriageway subsidence, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Harbour Street, Broadstairs, on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed from Flint House. There is no alternative route for through traffic.

CHURCH ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cable replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Ramsgate, on or after 12 April 2010, for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between between properties number 2 and 10. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A255 Boundary Road, Chatham Place, Chatham Street, High Street, Church Hill and Broad Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

ISMAYS ROAD, COMMON ROAD & BACK LANE, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 29th March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule 1:	
Road Name:	Ismay Road, Ightham
Extent:	From junction of Back Lane to outside Birchwood
Dates:	Start: 29th March 2010 End: 9th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismay Road, High Cross Road, A227 Tonbridge Road, Back Lane
Road Name:	Common Road, Ightham
Extent:	From junction of Ismay Road to outside Little Rosewood
Dates:	Start: 12th April 2010 End: 16th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismay Road, Sandy Lane, Common Road
Road Name:	Ismay Road, Ightham
Extent:	From junction of Back Lane to Tebb's Way
Dates:	Start: 19th April 2010 End: 23rd April 2010
Diversion:	Back Lane, A227 Tonbridge Road, Ismay Road
Road Name:	Back Lane, Ightham
Extent:	Ismay Road to Tebb's Corner
Dates:	Start: 26th April 2010 End: 30th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismay Road, High Cross Road, A227 Tonbridge Road, Back Lane

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for electrical maintenance work. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

BROOK STREET AREA, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting in Old Barn Close, Scott Road and Shakespeare Road as follows:

NO WAITING AT ANY TIME ON ALL DAYS (Double yellow lines - DYL)

Old Barn Close	Both sides - from a point 3 metres north of its junction with Brook Street for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction to start of granite sett rumble strip
Scott Road	East side - from a point 15.5 metres south of its junction with Brook Street in a southerly direction to a point 15 metres south of its junction with Shakespeare Road
Scott Road	West side - from its junction with Shakespeare Road for a distance of 12 metres in a northerly direction
Shakespeare Road	East side - from a point 19 metres south of its junction with Brook Street for a distance of 17 metres in a southerly then easterly direction into cul-de-sac

The effect of the Order will also be to introduce restriction of waiting in Burns Crescent and College Avenue as follows: **DAYTIME WAITING RESTRICTIONS (single yellow lines)** Street or length of street (specified in Columns 1 & 2) where waiting is prohibited on the days specified (in Column 3) between the times specified (in Column 4).

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Name of Road	Description of length of road	Days on which restriction applies	Times at which restriction applies
Burns Crescent	South side - from a point 4 metres south-west of the north-east side of No.19 Burns Crescent for a distance of 10 metres in a north-easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
Burns Crescent	South side - from its junction with the public footpath crossing of Burns Crescent for a distance of 5 metres on both directions	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
Burns Crescent	West side - from the south side of No.50 burns Crescent for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point opposite the north side of No.70 College Avenue to the north side of No.41 College Avenue in a southerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point 3 metres south of the north side of No.29 College Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a north-easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point 6 metres north of its junction with The Spinney for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	North side - from a point 24 metres south-west of its junction with West Rise to a point 2 metres north of its junction with West Rise	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	North side - from a point 11.5 metres east of the west side of No.30 College Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Councils reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle and the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

Any person wishing to object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than 12 noon on Monday 19th April 2010

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

STONE STREET AND CARRIERS ROAD, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stone Street, Cranbrook on or after Thursday 15th April 2010 for an estimated period of up to 17 days and Carriers Road on or after Monday 10th May 2010 for an estimated period of up to 23 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for Stone Street via Waterloo Road, Angley Road, High Street and Carriers Road via High Street, Wheatfield Drive, Wheatfield Way, Oatfield Drive and vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for a new supply installation. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is David Creasey of Amber Langis Ltd on 01732 783985.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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By **STEVE LOADER**

IT WILL be interesting to see how Ford promotes a new seven-seat C-Max option due later this year.

For the UK market leader was robust in defence of producing the original C-Max only in five-seat form, despite the success of the established seven-seat Vauxhall Zafira.

Ford claimed, with a sniff, that its own research showed there was no call for seven-seaters in that sector.

Well, the Zafira still puts more bums on seats than anything else in that arena and Ford's humiliating climbdown continues; first there was the bigger S-Max and now we await an all-new C-Max with the seven-up option (main picture).

So, from claiming there was no market at all, Ford now has two medium sector seven-seaters, though they are chalk and cheese.

The S-Max is a rarity – a classy looking and sporty MPV – while the new Grand C-Max is no looker, especially against the Zafira and MPV style leaders like the Renault Grand Scenic and Mazda5.

However, it does share two plus points with the Mazda: sliding rear doors for easier access to both rear seat rows and a fold-away middle seat in row two, allowing 'walk thru' access to the rearmost chairs.

Ford's maxed out C-Max is coming soon



At least we get a smart replacement for the current C-Max five-door though, which is even better looking than the current car and promises to be just as popular with drivers who have to have a people carrier yet still crave driving pleasure and some style.

The new version has an almost coupé-like roofline falling away to the rear, yet retains the required roominess.

Nevertheless, both the C-Max sisters will have family-friendly features on offer such as semi-automatic parallel parking, blind-spot detection, seat belt warning lights for rear seat passengers, power-activated child locks, and a powered tailgate.

They will also be the first Ford models to deploy a new high-efficiency, low-CO2 EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engines, following a trend set by the VW and Fiat stables; petrol remains easier to produce and the engines are cheaper and lighter than diesels.

With the new C-Max duo and the S-Max now catering for buyers needing just a bit more space, Ford obviously feels this will hit demand for the Focus estate; the Mark 1 Focus load-lugger was a capacious workhorse, but its successor majored more on style and, we now know, will be replaced at the end of the year by what appears to be simply an extended hatchback (pictured) targeting about 10 per cent of total Focus demand.



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06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES.....	£10495
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 38000 MILES.....	£8495

BMW

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY.....	£13995
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FIAT

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
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FUSION & FIESTA

09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£8995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



More wallet-friendly Murano ready to roll

TWO of the best 4x4/SUVs in the business were two of the worst, because their makers chose not to offer them in diesel format.

But both the Mazda CX-7 and Nissan Murano are now available with new wallet-friendly engines and may just grab some of the sales they deserved.

The Nissan is the latest convert; the sharply-styled second generation Murano launched in 2008, now features a 190PS (188bhp)

2.5-litre turbodiesel with six-speed auto transmission – deliveries begin in September. It's a familiar engine noted for its refinement and sportiness and the car also comes with Nissan's new 'self-healing' paint, which can automatically reseal small scrapes and scratches.

Nissan claims the Murano's upmarket specification makes it a serious rival to luxury saloons.

No price is yet quoted, but expect a £30,000+ tag.

Vauxhall slashes entry prices

VAUXHALL has thrown down the gauntlet to mainstream rivals by slashing entry prices on most of its range through new lower-priced Expression/ES models, even as it seeks a move upmarket.

Private buyers can save as much as £3,675, while company car users also incur reduced company car tax.

The new Corsa Expression supermini (pictured right) costs £9,995 – more than £1,000 less than the previous entry car – while the £13,995 Astra Expression hatchback saves £2,000, and the big £17,100 Insignia ES saves £1,700 on getting into Vauxhall's flagship.

However, the biggest bargain is the £14,995 Zafira Expression version of Britain's best-selling seven-seat compact MPV, which also loses no kit compared with the previous Life entry model to the range, apart from roof rails and air con.



Downsizing Aygo offers added luxury



WE'VE spoken before about how the downsizing phenomenon is prompting manufacturers to add more luxury options to their smallest models.

And Toyota has responded with an up-spec Aygo Black version (pictured left) of its three and five-door city car.

It features Alcantara and leather trim, sports steering

wheel, 14-inch alloys and black metallic paint and costs from £9,460 – air con is a £500 option though.

Power comes from a proven 1.0-litre petrol engine with a five-speed manual gearbox offering an average of 60+mpg and CO2 emissions of just 106g/km – an auto 'box is available on the five-door version.

The new Superb Estate. Bigger. Better. Happier.

With a class leading 1,865 litres of boot space, colour touch screen satellite navigation, bluetooth, and full leather upholstery as standard*, no wonder it was voted Top Gear's Luxury Car of the Year 2009. Starting from £17,715 RRP.



Octavia or Fabia. No VAT. Ends soon. Don't miss out.

We've reduced the prices of all Fabia and Octavia until 31st March 2010, which means it's like not having to pay the VAT. That's a saving of up to £2,110.43† on a Fabia and £3,388.30† on an Octavia.



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Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only. †Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km. Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 237

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Motability

20th anniversary show highlights the enduring appeal of kit cars

by
STEVE LOADER

MOTORING dreams can become reality more cheaply through kit cars and one of their longest running UK showcases is celebrating its 20th year.

It is the European Kit and Car Builder Show, returning to the Kent County Showground at Detling near Maidstone this Easter (April 4-5).

The UK has one of the most dynamic kit car industries in the world and Kent is home to some of the best known names including Blaze Motorsport, GKD Sportscars and Speedwell Replicas all from the Maidstone area, while Hawk cars – producer of replica versions of the legendary AC Cobra and Lancia Stratos is at Frant, near Tunbridge Wells.

The industry can trace roots back to 1896, when Thomas Hyler White developed a car design for home assembly.

The British kit car industry now has more than 200 manufacturers – more than the rest of the world combined – and generates in excess of £2 million per year.

Show organiser John Cooke promised: “The two-day Detling car extravaganza will showcase the very best of the kit car world, including many established favourites and some superb newcomers.

“The event really is the perfect way to enjoy



AFFORDABLE DREAM:
The Quantum Xtreme will be among the hundreds of kit cars on show at Detling

half-term with the kids, at the same time enjoying the stunning beauty of these top-class machines.”

Parking is free and the show will feature at least 35 manufacturers, 50 trade stands, 30 kit car clubs and 400 privately-owned kit cars,

plus entertainments centred on the show-ground's main glass-walled exhibition hall.

The show also includes displays by Scottish motorcycle stunt star Kevin Carmichael, who has performed all around the world and invented many stunts performed by others

on the circuit. The kit car show's official charity is Follow Your Dreams, raising awareness of children and young adults with learning disabilities.

• Tickets: adults £10, children 12 years and under £2, kit car drivers and their cars are free.

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Amount of credit	£7400.00
Agreed annual mileage Excess mileage charges apply	6000
Excess mileage charge Pence per mile	8.08p

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5.9% APR typical¹



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Optional final payment	£5223.00
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Total deposit	£3267.00
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Agreed annual mileage Excess mileage charges apply	6000
Excess mileage charge Pence per mile	2.62p

5.9% APR typical¹

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WJ KING HYUNDAI 93-101 Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent. BR2 9RW 020 8464 3456

*The Trade and Upgrade Programme enables eligible customers to obtain £3,000 as a minimum part exchange value for a qualifying vehicle when purchasing a new Hyundai i30. The programme is available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying vehicle against the purchase of a new Hyundai i30 between 8th March 2010 and 31st March 2010. Further terms and conditions apply. The programme may be varied or withdrawn at any time. The Trade and Upgrade Programme cannot be used in conjunction with the Hyundai Affinity Programme, Motability and Special Fleet Terms or, unless otherwise stated, any other offers (including, without limitation, the friends and family £250 voucher scheme). A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

Fuel consumption and CO2 for Hyundai Range – Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for the Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 64.2 (4.4), CO2 Emissions 225 - 115 g/km.

Brand New Alto 1.0 SZ2 Available now with 5.2% Typical APR*



- Remote central locking
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Typical finance example

Cash price	£7655.00
Deposit	£1879.70
Amount financed	£5775.00
1st monthly payment	£125.00
35 monthly payments	£95.00
Final payment	£3015.00
Interest charges	£689.70
Total amount payable	£8344.70

WJ King Suzuki

www.wjking.co.uk/suzuki

70 - 88 Park View Road, Welling, Kent. Tel: 020 8303 1234
93 - 101 Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent. Tel: 020 8464 3456

Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). Official CO2 emissions from 103g/km to 122g/km.

*Finance subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Offer and vehicle offered is subject to availability on cars purchased and registered before the 31st March 2010. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

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NU10 REG

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**FROM £12995 With 4 years
0% APR typical^{†(1)*}**

(1) Typical finance example for 4 years 0% APR Typical.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
£12995	£5198	£7797	£162.44	£162.44
1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	0% TYPICAL APR
£162.44	NIL	NIL	£12995	



NU10 REG

Vauxhall
Corsa Energy 1.0i 3dr

**FROM £8995 Inc. Vauxhall
swappage scheme***

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WJ King

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Swanley	01322 662890	Bromley	020 8464 3456
Woolwich	020 8854 8161		



VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: Urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (8.3), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5). CO2 Emissions 364 - 119 g/km.

(1) 4 years 0% APR is based on a minimum deposit of 40%, maximum finance amount £8500, available on selected Astra models as advertised. †Subject to availability, other models available at extra cost. Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, PO Box 3979, Glasgow G5 1YL, subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Models are available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered and registered between 06.03.10 and 31.03.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. # The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 05.02.10 and 31.03.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax for that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme, or with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only. Models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



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Used Car Section

Skoda Octavia 2.0 T FSI vRS 5-Dr Hatchback Mar 2006

Black Metallic 43,200 miles * Manual Petrol £9,795

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Jan 2008

Beige Metallic 24,700 miles * Manual Diesel £7,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles * Automatic Petrol £7,495

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 11,572 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Beige Metallic 25,400 miles * Manual Petrol £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback Mar 2007

Beige Metallic 21,200 miles * Manual Petrol £5,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004

Graphite Grey Metallic 48,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Other Makes

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006

Nayara Blue Metallic 20,695 miles * Manual Diesel £8,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback Dec 2006

Silver Lightning Metallic 33,364 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 29,700 miles * Automatic Petrol £6,495

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV Nov 2003

Pearl Blue Metallic 92,500 miles * Manual Diesel £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007

Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles * Manual Petrol £6,295

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Life 16v 5-Door Hatchback Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 67,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles * Manual Petrol £4,495

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback Aug 2006

Royal Blue Metallic 17,376 miles * Manual Petrol £4,295

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002

Bright Red 39,350 miles * Manual Petrol £3,995

Renault Megane 1.4 Fidji 5-Dr Hatchback Jul 2002

Platinum Metallic 32,232 miles * Manual Petrol £3,295

Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001

Norse Grey Metallic 71,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £2,795

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. *£2,500 saving off the RRP is available across the full Skoda range with up to an additional £1,000 off the RRP on selected Octavia models dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 29th February 2000 when traded-in against a new car subject to conditions. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see your local retailer for full terms and conditions. Prices are accurate at time of print. Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.

DrivingReview

by
STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Chevrolet Spark

CHEVROLET made itself a hostage to fortune by naming its new city car the Spark.

If the General Motors (GM) brand got it right then it could 'spark' real change in the way we Brits perceive this epitome of US car design – particularly in the small car sector where it has no serious track record.

Get it wrong though and you could see headlines being rehearsed: Spark fails to ignite Chevy, Spark snuffs out Chevy ambition, and so on.

After a week with Chevy's new baby though, it still shone brightly and not just because it is a lot of little car for the money (£6,945-9,845).

It had to be good to replace the much-loved Matiz. Launched as a Daewoo 12 years ago, the veteran five-door city car was looking tired; styled originally by the Italian master Giugiaro, it was ruined by an in-house facelift after GM applied Chevrolet branding to the former Korean marque.

But it bowed out in style with some stunning deals over the past year, with or without



the Government sponsored £2,000-a-time Scrappage grants.

Fortunately, the crisply-drawn high-roof five-door Spark with its fashionably concealed rear door handles, should help the memories fade though don't get carried away by the entry price; the poverty spec entry model requires you to pay extra for a sound system, so it's a fairly obvious showroom lure for dearer and better equipped versions.

The first 'proper' car in the line-up then is the 1.0+ model at £8,145 – quite a hike and, unfortunately, it highlights a regular marketing ploy by Chevrolet intended to underpin its reputation for value for money, but sometimes more likely to undermine it.

As the Spark's profile implies, it is a spacious small car and Chevy has enhanced its appeal as a mini-MPV by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back,

although it would be tight for three adults.

The Spark is currently available with 68PS (67bhp) 1.0-litre or 82PS (81bhp) 1.2-litre petrol engines; I haven't been able to drive the former, but the latter endows the little car with decent acceleration and the ability to cope with motorway hauls.

It is not the quietest small hatchback, but it rides well and Chevrolet has ensured that the high body does not loll into the bends – no mean feat.

Mid-range LS trim (from £8,445) is expected to be the most popular and brings remote central locking, interior upgrades, front fog lamps and a body-coloured rear spoiler.

And that seems about right after driving the 'blinged up' LT flagship with a package including electric windows all round, heated electric mirrors, roof bars, steering wheel audio controls, 15-inch alloys, climate control, exterior body

kit and six-speaker stereo. That takes the Spark to a less appealing £9,845 and a fairly ridiculous stance with those rails perched on a lofty roof.

And while the Spark cabin is quite eye-catching, with a retro display of gauges on top of the steering column, interior materials are a bit cheesy and actually look worse on the LT where some trays and bins are lined with a chrome finish likely to scratch badly with wear and tear.

The same problem afflicted shiny surfaces on the bigger Kalos supermini that was the basis for the current Aveo, so Chevrolet should have learnt the lesson by now.

I also found the driver's seat uncomfortable; there is a shaped bolster at the back of the seats that I presume is designed to prevent you sliding around too much, but it just made my backside numb – maybe it was a problem with the test car.

Have you seen this car?

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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO₂ Emissions 119 g/km.



DrivingPortfolio

CHEVROLET 1.2 LT 5-DR £9,845

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£35/year
Best rival	Hyundai i10

TheVerdict



DON'T LIKE:

'sparkly' chrome effect cabin trimmings that look cheap and will scratch and wear quickly



NOT SURE:

the seat profile is right, but maybe it was the shape of my backside



REALLY LIKE:

the overall practicality and value – just don't go for the highest specs

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Jeep Grand Cherokee

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Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Family Pack

WAS	SAVE	NOW
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£38,170	£6,305	£31,865

**NEW
10
REG**



Chrysler Grand Voyager

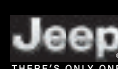
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WAS	SAVE	NOW
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£35,770	£2,096	£33,674

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Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit
£8,375	£179	£8,196	£2,544.60
60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£179.01	£298	£11,217.60	

Typical **13.2% APR**



Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRi

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit
£10,795	£219	£10,576	£2,564.60
60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£219.01	£298	£13,657.60	

10.3% APR



Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£9,295	£199	£9,096	£2,847	£199.05	£298	£12,440	13.1% APR



New Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Exclusive 5dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£11,795	£239	£11,556	£2,785.20	£239.02	£298	£14,878.20	10.2% APR



Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Sport 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£11,795	£239	£11,556	£2,785.20	£239.02	£298	£14,878.20	10.2% APR

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), CO2 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Finance subject to status. Terms & conditions apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 05.02.10 and 31.03.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme, or with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only.

AUDI

A2, FSI Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 39000 miles, £5800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A2, FSI Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 39000 miles, £5800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A2, FSI Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 39000 miles, £5800, Ashford, 0844 826

BENTLEY

AZURE, Azure CONVO AUTO SAT NAV, 25225188, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-charge screen, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. We are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £119000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, Hatchback, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 48000 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120 SE Auto, 2007, alarm fitted automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control full service history heated seats metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, blue, 29500 miles, £12995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d ES, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 53009 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320D/LEATHER, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior, grey, 47000 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525d Sport BMW SAT NAV, gd05cdx, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, electric seats, head restraints, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, air bag, brake assist, child locks, metallic airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, bmw sat nav, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. We are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 0 miles, £12897, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 530i SE AUTO E60, i5d3kf, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, full leather, immobiliser, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. We are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, grey, 38220 miles, £10997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i Sport Auto, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, black, 26500 miles, £24900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE, ds57ocn, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, height adjustable seat, rear armrest, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, child locks, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, air conditioning, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. We are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, aluminium silver, 43522 miles, £20997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X3, 3.0i SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 51232 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.5i SE CONV BMW SAT NAV, yf05ysj, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric windows, electric mirrors, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. We are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, red, 47358 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, Z4 2.5 Convertible, iV53gkf, power hood, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, full leather, cd player, radio, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, traction control, abs, power steering, immobiliser, remote central locking, head restraints, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, 17" alloys, this is a very tidy example of the Z4 having had just 1 private owner. the car comes with a file showing invoices for all previous work carried out by bmw and has just had all 4 tyres renewed. ready for when the sun comes out!, sapphire black met, 77000 miles, £9289, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

Z4 M, 3.2, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 33965 miles, £21000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, Sport Luxury, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control dvd electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sound pack split folding rear seats sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, black, 7500 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Desire 16v, wk07 hpy, air conditioning, electric front windows, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, auto lighting, rain-sensing wipers, twin air bags, blue, 27100 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, black, 50 miles, £10980, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, SX, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, mauve/purple, 33902 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C2, i Furio SensoDrive, 2005, alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer, silver, 16500 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C3, L Sdr, 7423079, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, twin air bags, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, blue, 33400 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

C3, 16v, 2008, red, 50 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i 16V Stop and Start 5dr Sensordrive Hatch, w56bvl, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, reverse parking aid, rear wiper, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, audio remote control, folding rear seats, body coloured bumpers, 3x3 point rear seat belts, full size spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, service indicator, steel wheels, front armrest, front head restraints, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, blue, 11765 miles, £6495, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C4, 16V VTR Plus (Non-DPFs), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, pearl iron grey, 23439 miles, £9795, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CSARA, EXCLUSIVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, grey, 40177 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CSARA, EXCLUSIVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, grey, 40177 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CSARA, EXCLUSIVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, grey, 40177 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DODGE

AVENGER, CRD SXT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 19000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CALIBER, CRD SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red, 16000 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, MULTIJET, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 21600 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, bossanova white, 18000 miles, £10600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £14100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, black, 256 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 Dynamic 5dr Hatch, af08bul, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, rear electric windows, front fog lights, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control, front head restraints, immob, front armrest, folding rear seats, isofix child seat anchor points, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear headrests, height adjustable drivers seat, rear armrest, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, space saver spare wheel, lumbar support, cool jazz blue metallic, 12000 miles, £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.9 MULTIJET 120 FAMILY - 7 SEATER, 2009, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking twin sliding doors, silver over 4000 cars in group stock, 25000 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 ACTIVE, 2008, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover twin airbags side load door, blue, 3000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 9000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, cd player electric windows immob metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, blue, 44000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immob metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue over 4000 cars in group stock, 21582 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 ACTIVE ECO, 2009, cd player central locking electric windows immob power steering twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch, mambo yellow, 7522 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.4 16v 100BHP, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 25338 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active, 2004, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows power steering trip computer, grey, 20000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 ACTIVE, 2005, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player twin airbags, silver over 4000 cars in group stock, 26700 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, 1.8ES, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering, nighthawk black, 26790 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, S, 2001, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 69168 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, galaxy grey, 6000 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6 SE, 2001, central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, silver, 51280 miles, £4495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.0TYPE-R, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control, milano red, 13500 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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CR-V, 2.0i V-TEC SE SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats remote central locking, black, 94000 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, i-DSi SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking, silver, 16647 miles, £7480, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, S 1.3, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows metallic paint power steering tinted glass remote central locking, blue, 22000 miles, £6780, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COUPE, SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows full service history immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 52977 miles, £5300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 7396079, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, power steering, parking sensor, traction control, trip computer, cruise control, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, auto-dip rearview, remote central locking, remote alarm, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, front fog lamps, rain-sensing wipers, auto lighting, twin air bags, curtain airbags, abs, cd player, radio, steering wheel audio controls, electric handbrake, alloy wheels, silver, 41700 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, 4.2 V8 SE, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer xenon headlamps front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, lunar grey, 12000 miles, £47000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, SE AUTO, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows full service history metallic paint leather interior power steering, black, 51350 miles, £8990, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, ultimate black, 13100 miles, £19990, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, V6 S Portfolio, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, blue, 17915 miles, £38000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XF, Supercarged, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass traction control trip computer xenon headlamps front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, botanical green, 31000 miles, £40000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XF, 4.2 V8, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass trip computer xenon headlamps front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, blue, 12000 miles, £47000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XF, V8 Portfolio, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior power steering satellite navigation, black, 6121 miles, £56500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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2006 56	SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 111,000 miles, Met grey, Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Anti theft system, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Front armrest, PAS, Air con, Central locking, C/C, Foglights, FSH, Sat Nav, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection, Business Pack, 6 Speed gearbox £7,695
2005 05	SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control..... £7,195
2002 52	SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 miles, Steel Grey, ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. £5,495
2001 Y	SAAB 9-3 2.2 TiD SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Auto remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator, Insurance Group: 12..... £3,195

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LOTUS

ELISE, 1.8 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 18247 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 111R, 2006, abs brakes alloy central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering remote central locking, grey over 4000 cars in group stock, 8967 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 PERFORMANCE and TOURING PACK, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, aspen white, 13000 miles, £30000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MAZDA

2. SPORT, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers multi functional tuneport (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls, ice blue, 3003 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

2. SPORT, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 3000 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2. SPORT, 1.5, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights metallic paint mp3 player multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, spirited green, 3000 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2. 1.4, 2008, black, 44 miles, £12800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3. 1.6, 2008, red, 44 miles, £20800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3. 2.2 SPORT NAV, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, celestial blue, 5500 miles, £18300, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

5. 1.8 TS2, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering sliding rear seats twin airbags side load door remote central locking isofix child seat points twin sliding doors, galaxy grey, 20495 miles, £9300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6. 1.8, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £20800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, Euphonic, gd53dhv, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, colour coded interior, centre armrest, head restraints, heated seats, sports seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, premium cloth soft top, electric aerial, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio, multi-disc cd player, alloy wheels, excellent low mileage example of probably the best looking mx-5 limited edition just had service/pre-delivery inspection, mot until march 2011, 6 months comprehensive warranty make the most of spring drive away today!, titanium, 28000 miles, £6990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

MX-5, ROADSTER, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass remote audio controls, black, 14128 miles, £13300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206. VERVE, 1.4, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows metallic paint power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass remote central locking, blue, 16750 miles, £6070, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207. S, 2007, abs brakes air con cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 15000 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

307. S 5dr, 7608079, air con, power steering, abs, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, alloy wheels, grey, 31300 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 5, en56jzl, insurance group 6 abs air con drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking service indicator side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer 1 owner service history, metro blue, 24000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

CORSA, Life Ac 3dr, vk57 bjv, power steering, abs, air con, cd player, radio, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, twin air bags, silver, 20100 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MERIVA, Active 1598cc 5 door, 2006, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check electric windows, metro blue, 32550 miles, £5495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VECTRA, 1.9 CDTI DIESEL AUTO 150BHP, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, star silver, 47361 miles, £8399, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ZAFIRA, EXCLUSIVE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags single cd player trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking, black, 19822 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ZAFIRA, 1.6i club, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote audio controls, black, 18652 miles, £7300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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Cider's not looking so rosy

KENT'S BUDGET 2010 REACTIONBy **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

CAUGHT between towering cliffs of UK debt and choppy waters from a looming general election, Chancellor Alistair Darling plotted a careful course with what is tipped to be his final Budget.

But it left Kent businesses neither stunned nor elated, though there was a knockback for Kent's small but important cider industry of some 15 producers. They were left reeling from a 13 per cent hike in alcohol duty – 10 per cent now on top of an overall three per cent tax rise on drinks over the next few years.

Mr Darling said targeting cider addressed a long-standing duty anomaly against other alcohol, but it also looked like pre-emption of a Conservative pledge to crack down on strong ciders and their alleged encouragement of under-age and binge drinking.

Unfortunately, in seeking to curb volume brands, Mr Darling also clobbered speciality producers such as Biddenden Vineyards.

MD Julian Barnes said it was a major blow, adding 8-10p to a litre bottle currently selling at £3.10p-3.20p in pubs and threatening to stall the industry's momentum of recent years.

It could get worse too – a Budget footnote revealed that a re-elected Labour Government would seek another increase on top-end ciders in September. Mr Barnes admitted to an irony in the fiscal backlash against the growth of volume ciders like Magners, which had fuelled interest in crafted products like Biddendens, though its award-winning still cider is marketed to be sipped rather than quaffed.

KEY POINTS FOR KENT FIRMS

- Need to invest in new plant and machinery? Ceiling for 100 per cent tax relief on capital expenditure on plant and machinery doubled to £100,000
- Need a cash injection? The Government will use its major holding in rescued banks Lloyds and RBS to table £94bn of new business loans, half being ring-fenced for use by smaller firms
- Need more customers? £15bn of new Government contracts available for small and medium-sized firms
- Need a breather? Cuts in business rates for one year from October if Labour is re-elected

- Need to sell up? Threshold for Entrepreneurs' Relief – effectively a 10 per cent capital gains tax on the sale of a business – increased from £1m to £2m
- Need to review the vehicle fleet? Proposed 3p fuel duty increase for April will now be staggered: 1p in April, 1p in October, with the balance in January 2011
- Or need a stiff drink? Alcohol duties to rise by three per cent over next few years with a further 10 per cent on cider – a serious knockback to Kent producers concentrating on the top end of the market

**Julian Barnes**

"We produce 400,000 litres a year," said Mr Barnes. "That's a serious amount for a small firm, but the new duty will definitely have an effect."

He was also worried about the wider effect on the Produced in Kent food and drink and tourism efforts of recent years, and for farmers likely to see apple production affected.

Looking across the Kent business community, Institute of Directors' regional chief Rodger Broad said: "The Chancellor's forecasts on GDP were long on optimism, but he fell short in terms of the detail on how the Government is going to achieve a credible plan to reduce the deficit. On a more positive note, we certainly welcome the specific measures to support small and medium-sized businesses."

This was echoed by Elizabeth Robertson of Creaseys chartered accountants in Tunbridge Wells, though she had hoped for cuts to head-

line rates of corporation tax and a stalling of the one per cent rise in employers' National Insurance due next April.

"The Chancellor has erred on the side of caution and avoided radical changes in business tax for fear of it being branded electioneering," she said.

"Many will see this as a missed opportunity to give them a helping hand while they grapple with recession."

Steve Carpenter at accountants DSH of Maidstone said many Budget changes had been flagged already, though the devil would be in the detail: "The only certainties were that the tax rules would become more complex as the Chancellor tries to close loopholes, rather than making changes that could really make a difference. It is the Budget after the election that will contain real measures, regardless of who forms the government."

**Steve Carpenter**

Institute of Chartered Accountants' regional director Fay Webster liked the Budget's short-term help for businesses, but added: "They need greater clarity on how departmental spending is going to be cut and also if taxes are going to be raised."

"This will have a direct influence on plans to invest and grow. The Budget does not go far enough to improve the transparency and accountability of public spending decisions. We do not know enough about how much is being spent and how well it is spent."

"This Budget was a missed opportunity to underpin long-term sustainable public finances and create a culture of genuine fiscal responsibility by reforming the way money is managed, accounted for and scrutinised."

Sue Hidson at account-

ants Horwath Clark Whitehill was also worried long term: "Due to the dire state of the Treasury's coffers he is not reversing the increases in the top rate of income tax and NI contributions. Worryingly, he is also not reversing the Government's proposal to halve infrastructure spending over the next four years, which will have a major impact on business, especially those serving the public sector."

Sittingbourne's Kent Science Park director James Speck welcomed proposals aiding start-ups and smaller businesses.

He said: "We have been fostering stronger links between business and education, so were pleased to see the Chancellor announce plans for an investment of £25m in a University Enterprise Capital Fund through UK Finance for Growth, to ensure universities are placed to commercialise their knowledge and innovation."

**Sue Hidson**

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The adventure goes on down Mexico way

BLUEWATER became the fourth site for award-winning restaurant chain Chilango this weekend.

Specialising in freshly made but affordable Mexican food, Chilango has just been voted Britain's Best Emerging Concept at the Retailer of The Year 'Oscars'.

The company, which already had two sites in London and one in Sheffield and plans another in Brighton later this year, is also unusual for avoiding what co-founder Eric Partaker calls the 'cookie cutter'



DOS AMIGOS: Chilango founders Eric Partaker (left) and Dan Houghton

approach to the group's restaurant design.

He said: "Each site will be unique and reflect the nature of the location it opens in – we are a young, nimble, hands-on team – this is just the beginning for us. We are deter-

mined to keep getting better and better."

So the outlet at Kent's Bluewater shopping centre draws on Mexico City's modernist architecture and uses brightly coloured laminate tables and a mix of wooden and wire framed furniture from Mexico.

Performances at the group's other sites suggest it will build business fast. Chilango launched less than three years ago but both London sites grew business by about 50 per cent over the past year, despite the recession.

This vindicates the gamble by founders Partaker and Dan Houghton who chucked in their jobs for a two-year tour of Mexico and North America to absorb native skills of using chillis, tomatoes, tomatillos, corn and avocados.

"The British public are incredibly adventurous," said Partaker. "They are hungry for new flavours and new experiences and are not afraid to try something different."

Coolings cuts garden giants down to size

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

INDEPENDENT Kent garden centre Coolings of Sevenoaks has slain national giants in its sector through a customer survey by Which? Gardening.

The national average score for UK garden centres was 55 per cent, but family-owned Coolings scored a huge 89 per cent.

Not only was this ahead of fellow independent and Royal Horticultural Society flagship, Wisley in Surrey (82 per cent), but a crushing 40 per cent better than the score for nationwide group Wyevale (49).

Supermarket and DIY chains operating in the sector also fared badly: Tesco scored 47 per cent, while Homebase and Focus both rated 46.

Which? members shopping at Coolings praised the product quality, staff and eating facilities particularly, awarding five out of five for each. But the Kent centre only achieved two out of five for price, though shoppers clearly felt they got what they paid for.

Which? gardening editor Ceri Thomas said:



GROWTH INDUSTRY: Coolings chairman Paul Cooling (inset) praised the independent garden centre's 187 full and part-time staff after the new Which? Gardening accolade

"While it's not always easy for independent garden centres to beat big chain stores in terms of price, Coolings more than makes up for it in terms of top quality plants and customer service."

Coolings operates from two 14-acre sites at Knockholt, Sevenoaks, one being the original garden centre supplying plants and gardening essentials while the newer site, Green

and Pleasant, sells garden furniture and other accessories. The company has been rated officially as a UK top 10 garden centre for the past decade and notched a string of awards, including Garden Centre of the Year in 2005 – a title awarded by industry peers – but the Which? accolade was clearly coveted by chairman Paul Cooling.

Grandson to founder Arthur – a local postman who started the original smallholding in Chislehurst as a hobby – he told BusinessforKent: This is a tribute to our fantastic staff, those dealing with customers and the production team in the nursery.

"The majority of our plants are produced on-site and those that aren't come from sources of the highest standards.

"And customers appreciate that they can see exactly what they are buying thanks to our acre of display gardens."

He said Coolings' deliveries to customers suggested its catchment area not only extended across Kent and into Sussex but even north of the Thames, while he knew many customers dropped in to stock up with plants en route to homes on the other side of the Channel.

"We are probably most famous for our hanging basket plants and we make up about 6,000 complete hanging baskets to sell each year," he said.

Coolings is a popular employer, too, judging by interest in 41 seasonal jobs early this year – it had 10 applicants for every post.

This takes the roster to 187 full and part-time staff. Many join temporarily, only to stay on. Coolings' MD Gary Carvosso himself started as a work experience boy and never left.

Disastrous not to plan for the worst scenario

FLOODING emerged as the biggest natural danger to Kent businesses during Business Continuity Awareness Week, from March 22-26.

"Businesses need to have plans in place in case of eventualities like flooding," said Cllr Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for communities.

"Flooding can destroy your workspace and equipment and prevent you from running your business. You need to think about a back-up plan for your files and a place to continue working until you can return to your premises. If you don't plan well, it could be the end of your business."

But the message of Business Continuity Awareness Week is poor planning for the aftermath of any catastrophe will kill a business more effectively than the disaster itself.

Alison Williams, chairwoman of Whitstable-based marketing agency FDS Group, reckons a disaster recovery plan saved her company after arsonists destroyed its offices.

Having the plan in place sent out a positive signal to customers, but she also recommended getting insurers on-site quickly so funding and finding temporary premises can be speeded up.

"We found dealing with insurance companies stressful and time-consuming. They were not always helpful or co-operative," she said.

Comfortable

"Once we had an insurance assessor on our side who knew the ins and outs, we were much more comfortable.

"Our assessor was paid a percentage of what we received from the insurance. But he more than covered his costs in terms of reducing stress and negotiating a better settlement with the insurers than we could have done.

"There was no time to dwell on the situation. Most of our clients are blue-chip businesses who demand continued service, no matter what, and our offices were uninhabitable.

"Getting operational as quickly as possible was the best way to reassure clients. Having got a fully functioning office, we spent a lot of time making sure customers' confidence in us remained strong."

But she would still do more if disaster struck again, firstly by allocating more staff to winning new business in the period after the fire.

"Our main priority was to keep the business we had, so new business development went on the back burner for a few months," she said.

"As a result, profits growth dipped from 35 per cent a year to just eight in the year after the fire. Secondly, she would have had more than one year loss-of-earnings insurance in place.

"We've now got three years. If we'd had that cover at the time, it would have taken a lot of the pressure off," she said.

For more on this, go to www.kent.gov.uk/kent-communityriskregister where there is also a competition for firms, schools and the public to enter.

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 Hadlow College has been an agricultural education centre since the 1960s. But as demand for land-based courses has grown, Hadlow has had to keep up with the times and its investment in time and money has paid off. Yourkenttv met the man behind the changes – financial director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor

Strained credibility but little flexibility

TEN years on from pledging to implement new working practices and an improved 'work/life balance', the Government stands accused of failure.

The verdict from management consultants Advanced Workplace Associates (AWA) follows a survey of 20,000 office workers from 40 large corporations, which revealed 91 per cent wanted the more flexible working arrangements pledged by the Government a decade ago – only 21 per cent are able to do that.

AWA said this also means that businesses and the environment are also missing out on potential financial and carbon footprint savings of up to 30 per cent from 'flexi-time' practices.

The company's MD, Andrew Mawson, said that after heralding a new age of work with increased efficiency and improved work/life balance for all, Government commitment and potential benefits to the country had fizzled out.

"Businesses are running offices with a typical occupancy of only 50 per cent, providing facilities, heating and lighting for unused office capacity," said Mawson.

"In environmental terms alone, the Government should be encouraging the uptake of working practices which cut this waste."

STRAWBERRY BLONDE: Soft fruit is being picked and eaten in the county already. Picker Akvile Steponaviute, from Lithuania, is among those bringing in the crop



KENT has claimed first place in the race to get British-grown strawberries to market for the 2010 season.

And they're being enjoyed locally, too, after S and A Produce of Hernhill, near Faversham, started supplying supermarkets in the county.

Jason Davies-Baker, site director at S and A, said the company was actually a week earlier than usual with supplies.

"Given the horrendous weather this year, you'd be forgiven for assuming the season's strawberries would be delayed," he said.

"However, this achievement is testament to modern techniques. We grow our early strawberries in glasshouses and this method, along with growing our summer supplies on table-tops and in polytunnels, means strawberries are protected from the elements."

Biofuels expert's 'greener' Africa

BIOFUELS expert Professor Patricia Harvey, of the University of Greenwich at Medway, is leading an international project to develop green energy in Africa.

The three-year project aims to replace fossil fuels and support alternative power generation in South Africa, Ghana and Namibia without damaging the environment or harming food production in favour of biofuel crops.



Patricia Harvey

One of the new ventures is looking at oil extraction from the seeds of the long-lived and drought-resistant jatrophia tree. It can grow on poor and marginal soils and is often used as a hedging plant, but the oil can power standard diesel engines.

Marine micro-algae thriving in the warm waters off the shores of Namibia are another alternative fuel option, while the research team is also looking at producing biogas from processed agricultural and food waste.

Prof Harvey, head of bioenergy research at the university's school of science, is working alongside academics, scientists and decision-makers from the three African nations, Italy and the UK and the project has been backed by EU funding.

She said: "This is a tremendous challenge, but it's essential we find replacements for fossil fuels and new ways of distributing biofuels and alternative sources of energy between these countries if their economies are to grow."

"There is a huge will for the research to succeed. Every university in South Africa attended our first project workshop, which also included 100 representatives from government and industry at all levels."

"We will be sharing our knowledge and expertise to identify any barriers to the development of non-food biofuels in each area."

Scatter-gun spending squandering billions

IoD urges public sector to unify buying

PUBLIC sector managers have been accused of squandering more than £25 billion a year – losses that could be slashed if they wielded their buying power like the big supermarkets.

The attack was sparked by a report on public sector spending from the Institute of Directors (IoD), representing 14,000 business leaders in the southern region including Kent.

The document argues that £15bn could be saved through restructuring procurement, with £10bn clawed back through greater use of shared services and outsourcing.

"If the public sector were a company, it would have gone out of business long ago," the report concluded, after noting that UK public bodies spend £220bn on procurement annually, equivalent to £3,500 per head of population.

"Politicians just talk about cutting waste – but we have a solution," says the IoD report.

"Taxpayers have a right to expect speedy implementation – it is their investment and their services that will suffer without it. But this will be achieved only with strong leadership from government."

A key problem highlighted in the IoD report is how organisations such as NHS trusts, local authorities and small government departments do their own thing and order supplies and services on a local and separate level – a scatter-gun approach to procurement that is not cost effective.

Rodger Broad, regional director for

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



MILES TEMPLEMAN

the IoD South, said: "Each public body needs to stop thinking, and buying, like a corner shop and instead think of its combined streamlined purchasing power as being more akin to the might of Tesco. The private sector has been

squeezed during difficult economic times so it comes as no surprise that the savings spotlight should now be turned on the public sector.

"We are fortunate here in the South East that a relatively small proportion of our economy and jobs is dependant on public money, but in parts of the UK where there is a greater reliance on government supported jobs the need for cutbacks will hit even harder."

Having diagnosed the problem, the IoD claims to have the cure:

- Centralised buying organisations to handle all key supplier relationships and all national and major contracts for the whole public sector.
- Where there are regional and local requirements, regional procurement hubs to provide expert contracting support to all bodies in the region.
- A single leadership point for the above structure such as the Office of Government Commerce, which is already expected to extract best value for Government spending.
- Mandatory use of the above structures by all public bodies.

Miles Templeman, IoD director-general and chairman of Kent brewer Shepherd Neame, said: "The economic situation demands immediate action to reduce public expenditure through implementing the proposals in this IoD paper."

"There is a lot of talk among politicians about the need to introduce efficiencies into the public sector, but very little detail on how this will be done."

"This report provides a much-needed blueprint."



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Shorthand revival defies technology

DICTAPHONES, pocket tape recorders and even voice recorders on most modern mobile phones don't seem to be able to kill off the art of shorthand.

In fact, Pitman – the system invented by Isaac Pitman in 1837 – seems to be making a comeback.

Some franchises report that course enrolment levels are up 15 per cent, despite a wealth of technology that argues against taking down notes speedily by hand.

But Pitman spokesman Keith Wymer claims we shouldn't be too surprised.

"With the advent of voice recorders on almost every phone available it's understandable that people started to rely on this easily-accessible technology," he said.

Masked

"However, the problem with these sorts of devices is they record absolutely everything that goes on, potentially leading to important bits of information being masked by someone drumming on the desk, or coughing, or they might just run out of batteries or recording space.

"You also end up having to sit through the entire meeting again to transcribe the useful bits – what a waste of time.

"Shorthand allows you to note down the important bits, leave out the fluff of a meeting or presentation and allows for a much quicker transition from notes to useful material.

"You also tend to be much more switched on if you're taking notes. There's a temptation to doze if all you have to do is hit 'record' and wait for the meeting to finish."

He added that it was a strong addition to anyone's CV and, once learned, is a skill never forgotten and always useful.

Flexibility is king in post-recession world of training

BRITAIN'S economic crash has not only changed the business map, but looks like transforming the world of training, *writes Business Editor Steve Loader.*

Managers in the field are talking about greater flexibility in study programmes, wider ranges of topics and more input from companies and their trainees – visions of rigid modules and 'classrooms filled with grown-ups' could be a thing of the past.

Kent Business School (KBS) at the University of Kent at Canterbury believes it is at the head of an innovative training order for the county, with options like Bespoke Business Courses – designed around a company's or individual's needs – and Part Time Executive Education, where individuals can gain a Masters by combining existing work and study and using assignments often based around a real issue/project in their company.

KBS marketing manager Samantha Blanchard told *BusinessforKent*: "It really is a two-way street; a case of working closely with someone, a company or even a group of companies to design what they need for a specific task.

"We are, for instance, currently working with a network of

companies in the Tunbridge Wells area to help them take their businesses forward and out of the difficult times we've just experienced in the UK."

She said KBS, which promotes itself as "the Business School OF Kent and FOR Kent", had found its part-time courses striking a particu-



LEARNING CURVE: KBS training offers flexibility and strategic thinking

lar chord with beleaguered businesses and those they release for study.

"The idea that the 'student' can spend a week studying and then return to their company for a week works really well," she said.

"The business is not deprived of a key employee for a long period and

the employee can return to work invigorated and able to implement what they have learned over the past week, rather than losing touch or their edge by being away from work for a year.

"I know it works – I did exactly that with my own Masters."

But while the recession had fos-

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SELF-employed business owners in Sittingbourne can attend a free Boost Your Sales and Profits workshop.

Run by Business Link, the publicly-funded business advice and support service, two half-day sessions are being held, from 8.30am and from 1.30pm, at Hempstead House Hotel, London Road, Bapchild, on Thursday, May 6.

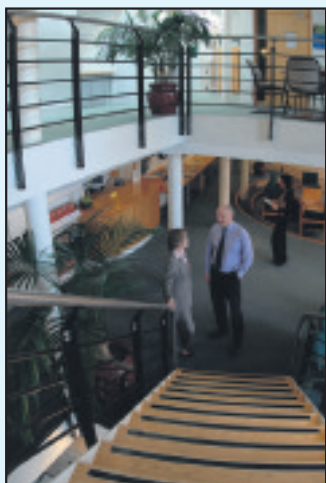
Delegates will leave the workshop with a personal action plan including three key tips to improve their business within just 90 days.

Changes

Tony Buddin, head of marketing at Business Link in Kent, said: "This is not your usual workshop where you make a few notes and take home a few pointers – this is a one-off business review, a health check to take a refreshed look at your business and make changes.

"Giving up just a few hours will be time well spent, giving the owner/manager the insight they need to take their business forward. In these uncertain times a workshop such as this, which can help develop your business and realise your aspirations, is a one-off opportunity not to be missed."

To apply for a place, go to www.boostyour-salesandprofits.co.uk.

**SAMANTHA BLANCHARD**

tered part-time training through better time and cost-effective use of those attending, it had also created other training needs through companies simply needing to slash staffing levels.

Many courses were being taken up by individuals needing to re-train after being made redundant, but there had also been a trend towards training people to replace relatively expensive middle managers axed as companies battled the recession.

Ms Blanchard said: "After redundancies, companies look to get the most out of remaining staff.

"It's less expensive than recruiting, they already know the company and it's easy to send them on a tailored course."

However, she admitted training establishments generally still had some way to go to dispel a traditional phobia, dating back to school-days, of being "preached at in the classroom".

And in the case of KBS, Ms Blanchard said, there were both positives and negatives from being on the campus.

"While we want to be seen as innovative, we don't want to be seen as just another university department.

"On the other hand, there are real benefits from being able to tap into the high-level strategic thinking within 'academia', so what we really want is to be seen as the bridge between the two environments."



Kent Business School on the UKC campus

How mentoring can help over-50s start a new life in business

SEVENOAKS businessman Peter Abrahams is helping to launch a new mentoring campaign to get older people in the area back to work.

Peter, 63, from West Kingsdown, runs a Kleeneze distribution business in Sevenoaks and is backing a national campaign by the catalogue company in support of the charity PRIME Initiative to help over-50s get back into the job market.

And Peter believes he can help as mentor and trainer for those thinking about starting their own business.

"The recession has impacted the job market as a whole, but those aged over 50 have felt the effects particularly keenly," said Peter.

"Many older people feel they are being let down or neglected when it comes to developing in their current job role, looking for a new job or receiving fair treatment when they come to retirement age."

Research by Kleeneze revealed that 42 per cent of over-50s report that the recession has had a negative effect on their income, with 22 per cent of those aged 55 or over suffering from reduced income from pensions and savings.

Peter joined Kleeneze after being made redundant himself, and said: "I'm now keen to help other people my age discover that there are other earning opportunities out there and prove that life really does begin at 50."

Stunning results for health and safety training students



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PASS rates for a key health and safety qualification offered by a Kent site have hit 92 per cent – exceeding the national average by 12 per cent.

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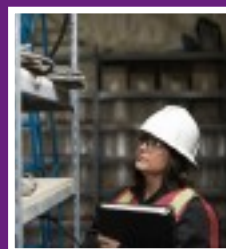
Training at the Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, where director Jan Mills said: "The course, which is taught at our dedicated training centre, enables people to inspect a construction site and write a sensible report to management on the findings, which is both persuasive and practical.

"Some 15 per cent of our 88 students achieved a distinction and 44 per cent achieved a credit in our last set of results."



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Timeline

KOS Media Sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910 100 YEARS AGO: THE declining stature of the Kent Senior Cup can be gauged by a report from a century ago that claimed a crowd of 6,500 for the final between Northfleet and Chatham was relatively disappointing.

More than 1,000 supporters made the journey from Northfleet to Maidstone's Athletic Ground, many of them packed like sardines into the bus from Northfleet to Maidstone Barracks.

There was also a healthy contingent from Chatham, but the Cementers gradually took control of the game after an even opening half-hour.

Kennedy headed them ahead on 35 minutes and Williams scored the second late on, "during a fusillade on the Chatham citadel," according to the reporter.

The excitable correspondent also noted a conspicuous absence of "county celebrities". They may have realised Alderman Billings was due to give a post-match speech, in which he said, among other things: "There is no sport which commanders and invites the true qualities of manliness such as football."



BIG INNINGS: Colin Cowdrey's knock of 119 against the Windies was front-page news

1960 50 YEARS AGO: IT was rare for a sports story to make the front pages of the newspapers half a century ago, but Colin Cowdrey managed the feat after hitting 119 for England in the first innings of the fifth and final Test with the West Indies.

Denis Compton was moved to call the former Tonbridge schoolboy "the finest opening batsman in the world".

Cowdrey shared a 191-run partnership with Ted Dexter as England made 393.

The home side responded with 338 for 8 declared and though Cowdrey made a duck in the second innings, the tourists posted 350 to bat West Indies out of the game. The draw ensured England won a historic 1-0 series victory.

1985 25 YEARS AGO: GILLINGHAM manager Keith Peacock's threat to drop star striker Tony Cascarino paid off, as the future Irish international responded with his strongest performance for weeks in a 2-1 win against Cambridge United.

The Gills fell behind at the Abbey Stadium after a horrendous back pass by John Sittin, but Dave Mehmet equalised seven minutes from the break and winger Martin Robinson hit the winner 12 minutes from time.

"It seemed as though we were going to do everything but score, we had so many chances," Peacock said. "But Robbo kept his cool and took his goal exceptionally well."

Maidstone United manager Barry Fry was trying to 'lease' striker John Bartley back from Welling, the club he joined after leaving the Stones under a cloud earlier that season, in time for the Bob Lord Trophy final with Runcorn.

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by, email them to our sports editor at glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

By STEVE TERTVET

THE COUNTY'S top rugby players and coaches will end their season by trialling a proposed rule-change as RFU bosses look to rugby league's model for improved player welfare.

Rolling substitutions will be used throughout the county championship in May with a view to introducing the system into the regular season if the experiment is successful.

The championship was previously used to trial the Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) and Kent's three games in this year's championship will see substituted players able to return to the field. Up to 12 interchanges per side will be permitted – a system used in rugby league since the early 1990s.

Optimistic

County bosses are cautiously optimistic about the trial, although opinions are split as to who will be most affected by the new rule.

Critics fear the rolling changes will detract from the character of the sport, but with the increasing physicality and ever-lengthening injury lists, the general consensus is that rugby can only benefit from the move.

David Corry, father of former England captain Martin and president of the Kent RFU, will oversee the county's campaign throughout May.

He said: "It's designed for player welfare. At the moment there are rules as to what you can and can't do with replacements and this gives the coaching team more opportunities.

"If a player gets a knock, you can take him off the field, see what's going on and it allows players more time to recover. You won't have to



TRIAL: County Championship side (above) will take part in rolling substitute experiment

ask a player to continue playing with the knock, to run it off."

Kent start their campaign in Division Two South of the Bill Beaumont Cup on May 8 against Hampshire, with games against Somerset and Middlesex to follow on the next two Saturdays.

Coach Chris Wilkins will announce his squad next month and Kent RFU chairman

Roger Clarke believes it is Wilkins who will most benefit from the trials.

He said: "It brings another feature into the game in relation to tactics and coaches being aware of what's going on. The county championship tends to be used as a testing ground, like it was for the ELV rules – it's three or four games in a competitive situation and it should test a coach's expertise."

Spencer targets World Cup glory

HAVING regained the Grand Slam with a nail-biting win in France, England women's rugby captain Catherine Spencer believes her side are now mentally ready to win the World Cup.

Spencer lifted the Six Nations Trophy in Rennes after leading the Red Roses to an 11-10 victory which saw both sides finish with 14 players in front of a partisan home crowd.

Former Medway centre Rachael Burford was also in the championship-winning side, having grown up playing against Spencer during the skipper's days with Folkestone.

Spencer, 30, expressed her delight at England's continued success and admitted thoughts were now turning to the World Cup, which begins on August 20.

She said: "We've had a great year, winning the Nations Cup last summer, beating New Zealand and then winning the Grand Slam, so we know we are going in the right direction and we just have to keep that momentum."

"France gave us a really close game and it was good to end the tournament with such a tough fixture. It's nice to win by 50 or 60 points, but we need to play in



WINNER: Catherine Spencer with the Six Nations trophy and during England's thrilling 11-10 win against the French which secured the title and Grand Slam

close games because those are the fixtures where we learn most about ourselves."

England conceded just 15 points from their four games, finishing four points clear of France and Ireland at the top of the table. Spencer praised her side's character to come back after

France took a 10-8 lead in the second-half and said playing in the same side as Burford had made the triumph even sweeter.

"I played against her when I was at Folkestone and we're both very proud of our Kent roots," Spencer said. "Burford still has strong links with Medway and it's nice to be able to think back to our days in club rugby."

Teens' international chance

CANTERBURY Hockey Club's conveyor belt of young talent keeps rolling, with six of the club's teenagers selected to represent England at the Easter Four Nations tournaments.

England's boys and girls will take on Spain, Germany and the Netherlands at under-16 and under-18 level with the competition getting under way on Good Friday.

Canterbury's Lucy Hyams, Eliza Brett and Rebecca Weston have all been called up to the under-16 squad while Grace Balsdon will join up with the under-18s. Both Hyams and Balsdon have been regulars in Canterbury's 1st XI this season and head coach Ian

Jennings was not surprised to learn of their inclusion.

He said: "They've been as integral a part of the team as you possibly can be – they're the first names on my team sheet and they've equipped themselves very well."

"They've played just about every single minute of every match and that stands them in tremendous stead for international honours."

Balsdon's younger brother, Jack, has been selected at under-16 level while Ross Gillam-Jones joins Holcombe's Aathavan Lingewaran in the under-18 squad.



ENGLAND PICK: Grace Balsdon (right)

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Picture: ADY KERRY

Medway Park pictures: ADY KERRY

MEDWAY Park's gleaming new doors opened to the public this week following an £11.1 million redevelopment project which has changed Kent's sporting landscape overnight.

On budget and only a handful of days late, the three-year revamp has turned the exhausted Black Lion Leisure Centre into a regional centre of excellence capable of hosting world-class sporting events.

It is some achievement considering the mind-numbing complexity of the project. Existing facilities are unrecognisable following an extensive refurbishment, which has taken place alongside grafting the new buildings on it, all while the centre has remained open to the public.

Plans to upgrade the Black Lion in Gillingham had long been in the pipeline, but London winning the bid to host the 2012 Olympics provided Medway Council with an opportunity. Bob Dimond, the council's Medway Park and 2012 sports development manager, feels it created the will to act decisively.

"We had two choices; either refurbish what we've got and if we're happy with that then that's fine," he said. "But we could do something special with it. The Olympics concentrated everyone's minds because it did suddenly stop being a 'we'll do something in the future' to 'now is the right time'."

"We wanted to encourage greater participation through our schools and community, we had the opportunity to work with the universities, and the Government was looking at what schemes it should do in the build-up, so it fell very nicely because the Games crystallised that ideal."

The result is a concentration of top-class facilities – from the new athletics track and cavernous sports hall to gym and sports science suites – on a scale not seen anywhere else in the county. The potential will be demonstrated in a matter of days, with teams from 26 countries arriving in less than a fortnight to compete in the Modern Pentathlon World Cup Series.

It will mark a high-profile official opening on April 8, but the hope is Medway Park will come to be seen as the first port of call for the county's main sports events.

Dimond said: "I want it to be seen as a natural county or regional standard facility. Week-in week-out sports are coming here and see it as a natural home for training and competing so that we have the very best using it. People automatically see this as a venue where you hold their events, that's how you grow the base."

Lion ready to roar

Ahead of its official opening next month, chief sports reporter DAVID PRITCHARD was given an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the new Medway Park sports complex to discover the impact it will have on sport in the county



Medway Park

COST: £11.1 million (Government £5m, University of Kent £3m, Sport England £1m Medway Council £2.1m)

NEW FACILITIES: Eight-lane athletics track, 12-court sports hall, Gymnastics centre (to be completed this summer), University of Kent centre for sports therapy and sports science, dedicated judo centre, three dance and aerobic studios

REFURBISHED FACILITIES: Swimming pool and changing rooms, health and fitness suite, cafeteria and bar



"You can't hold a world event every week, they are the icing, but something like Medway Park Crusaders means we have National League basketball here every week."

"Part of the arrangement with them is they do six hours a week community-use free for us so the community can get involved. It's that kind of growth which will make the difference."

The Crusaders are one of several clubs to sign up to use Medway Park as their home. Moving from Canterbury last summer, they even changed their name from Kent Crusaders as part of the switch. Despite the upheaval, club chairman Jesse Sazant feels

it is insignificant compared to the benefits the new venue offers.

He said: "It's a fantastic facility. It's rare in this country to get facilities properly designed for basketball and having a wood-sprung floor makes a real difference."

"With the ambition of the club, the biggest thing holding us back was the facility. It's the whole package at Medway Park – the scoreboard, seating capacity, the link with the university and the sports science department. When the final details were agreed it was a no-brainer."

While there is an emphasis on elite sport, the normal public day-to-day use is fundamental to Medway Park's success. The aim was to create a place where the two different strands could co-exist and by a happy coincidence it will

literally happen when teams train at the centre ahead of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup.

Dimond said: "When the first two countries arrive there will only be a couple of swimmers, so we'll just give them some lanes in the pool and with the public swimming alongside them."

"I can't imagine being in the pool when the guy next to you puts on his Australia cap and goes off. It's just phenomenal."

"If we pull this off – and we will – the sky's the limit. The confidence it will give the community – you can say to them 'yesterday the world champion was running round this track, do you want to have a go?'"

"That's when people will start to understand what we're trying to achieve here, with a facility which allows us to do that. If we don't engage the public that won't work."

Facilities superior to London 2012 site, say modern pentathlon chiefs

ORGANISERS of next month's Modern Pentathlon World Cup event consider the venue at Medway Park a better facility than those that will host Olympic competition in London in 2012.

All five events will be contained within Medway Park, with the field inside the new athletics track to be converted into a showjumping arena.

Peter Hart, chief executive at Pentathlon GB, is impressed with the finished project and is looking forward to the prospect of holding the competition in one site.

He said: "Only a handful of other places in the UK could host it. Even the Olympics is split across two sites, so the fact we have the five disciplines all within 150 metres of each other is fantastic."

"Everyone wins because it's easier to organise, the athletes prefer it and it's better for spectators."

Pentathlon GB committed to host the multi-national four-day event at the site in



BIG LEAP: Medway Park plays host to the Modern Pentathlon World Cup next month

2007 before work had started. Despite the leap of faith required, Hart never considered it a gamble.

He said: "I don't think it was. They had secured the money and the drive and enthusiasm from the whole area to make this work was really good. It gave us a tremendous amount of confidence that it was going to happen. We've been in regular contact but we never looked anywhere else."

'Olympic teams will not train here at the expense of our community'

THE commitment to community-use alongside elite sport has been impressively demonstrated by Medway Park's selectivity over which countries use the facility for pre-Olympic training camps.

So far Portugal's gymnastics and trampolining squad and the Barbados Paralympic team have signed agreements to use Medway Park in the run-up to the London Olympics in 2012.

More are expected to follow, with teams expected to hold open sessions and meet the local community as part of the agreement.

Of greater significance was Medway Park's decision not to compromise their approach when China, who topped the medals table in Beijing in 2008, expressed an interest in using the facilities. Delegates met with Medway Park twice to consider the venue,

but China's demands made it impractical.

Bob Dimond, Medway Park and 2012 sports development manager at Medway council, said: "One of the key things for major countries like that is they want full-time exclusive use of the facilities."

"That's not what this place is about; it's about community usage. Therefore, when we're looking at pre-Games training camps it's about looking for countries who want to engage with our community."

"I appreciate China are the biggest team in the world and want the elite facilities, but if you look at how they trained for Beijing they built a centre purely for their Olympic team."

"The councillors and directors have been very clear: we're interested in training camps but not at the expense of our community."



BRIEF: Eurostar wants to focus new Fleet deal on the community

Fleet sponsor wants focus on community

EUROSTAR want their next sponsorship deal with Ebbsfleet United to have its foundations in the local community after three years of "high-profile news."

The high-speed train operators are set to put their name to a new deal with the Blue Square Premier club before the end of the season, having agreed in principle to extend their relationship with the Fleet until April 2011.

Ebbsfleet chairman Duncan Holt and director Phil Sonsara met Eurostar officials to present a community brief on behalf of the club and Holt insists any new deal hinges on making sure they "tick the right boxes."

He said: "Hopefully a deal can be done in the next three or four weeks. I would love to announce it at our last home game [against Gateshead on April 17]. We've got a good relationship and Eurostar is a good sponsor. They've had a lot of high-profile news through

us over the last few years and maybe the next deal will be more community-based."

Holt will take a Eurostar party on a tour of Stonebridge Road next week, with a view to eventually signing a long-term deal to cover the 2012 Olympic Games, when Ebbsfleet International Station will be awash with sports fans from around the world.

Holt said: "What we're trying to work around with Eurostar is ticking the right boxes and increasing their association with the fans. They originally looked at us as more of a product but now they want it known they are supporting the club."

"I'd like to change the deal with Eurostar and build it around the Olympics in 2012 – it would be nice to gear that in closer to the time. They understand it's going to be a huge year for them, we've got a lot going on and we're only 300 metres from the station."



NEW LINE-UP: (l-r) Steven Kane and Mat Jackson

New deal puts team back on right track

MOTORBASE Performance have unveiled a new team for their assault on the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) this week to end fears they weren't going to compete this season.

The independent touring car team, based in Wrotham, have been frantically trying to secure funding and drivers to complete their entry for Britain's most popular racing series.

At their home circuit, Brands Hatch, the team unveiled a potentially title winning line-up of Mat Jackson and Steven Kane as well as announcing a new sponsorship deal with Airwaves.

Team owner Dave Bartrum

admitted there had been times when a combination of a lack of funding and potential drivers put the team's touring car hopes in the balance.

He said: "At times I thought we might not make it onto the grid, but having Airwaves back us again was crucial. It's not as big a deal as last time but has helped us massively as they are an instantly recognisable company."

"As you can see by the car there is a lot of blank space to fill so we are looking for more funding. Overall I'm relieved and couldn't be happier we've unveiled our team and can start looking forward to racing."

No daddy's boy

Working for the old man no easy ride for son of Gills boss

By DAVID PRITCHARD

THE relationship between father and teenage son can be fraught with difficulties at the best of times, let alone in the high-pressure world of professional football.

Family pairings between manager and player are not unheard of – Brian and Nigel Clough, Alex and Darren Ferguson, for example – but in such a competitive environment, only the very best escape accusations of nepotism.

As a result there were probably a few raised eyebrows this week when Charlie Stimson was one of three Gillingham apprentices awarded a one-year professional contract with the League One club.

This summer the 18-year-old will be working on a daily basis under first-team manager, and father, Mark Stimson. Although it is the first time at senior level the pair will be in such close proximity, they have had plenty of practice at establishing their roles.

Mark admits to begin with – when Charlie played in a Tottenham under-10s side he was coaching – it was difficult to treat him fairly. But instead of favouring his son, the budding striker played less than everyone else despite being the team's top scorer.

"At the time I didn't realise and it wasn't until the end of the season and I looked at how many minutes he played less than the others," he said. "It was a learning curve and now he comes in and will be judged



STRICTLY PROFESSIONAL: Mark Stimson says his son Charlie (inset) will be treated just like any other player during his time at Gillingham

exactly the same as any other player."

After years of practice, the pair are able to switch seamlessly between parallel lives, from home to training ground and back again.

Mark said: "When he's at home he's my son and you want him to respect his parent and everyone and enjoy his life. When he comes to football he's judged as a football player and our relationship changes because then he's one of 20 other players."

"Since he's been here he's been in reserve team games with me and he's just a player. If he needs to be told something he gets told it exactly the same as anybody else."

Connor Essam and Dean Rance will also be added to the first-team squad from this summer after impressing for the Gills' youth and reserve sides. Stimson has high hopes for all three youngsters, but

warned against expecting them to make an impact in the first-team as quickly as Luke Rooney and Jack Payne have in their first season as professionals.

He said: "I think at this time we wouldn't expect them to do as well as those two have. Rooney's done really well, technically he's a fantastic player and at the moment just needs to find a position which is going to work with him in the team. Jack is exceptional, I've got really big hopes for him and the number of games he's played this season has been way past what we thought."

"To put the other three in the building under that sort of pressure I think would be too much, but if they go away and look after themselves in the summer they'll certainly come back fit and if you do that you might surprise a few people."

Academy chief's departure loss for club

THE opportunity to take charge of a new football academy from the beginning convinced Mark Patterson to leave his coaching role at Gillingham last week.

The former Gills full-back left Priestfield after four years coaching in the youth set-up to take charge of a new venture run jointly by Ashford Town and the nearby North School. Held at the school from September, the academy intends to give talented 17 and 18-year-olds overlooked by professional clubs another chance.

Education will play a key role in the project, with coaching sessions fitted around studies for a BTEC qualification.

Patterson stressed he had enjoyed his time with Gillingham, but felt the offer to build an academy from scratch was too good to turn down.

He said: "It was one of those things where if I turned it down I might never get the chance again and regret it. The ultimate aim is to produce players for Ashford Town's first-team and beyond."

"I've come in early because I want to be able to say everything's been set up my way. If it doesn't work it's down to me, which is the challenge."

Despite the comprehensive scout-



PROTEGE: Mark Patterson (inset) says he hopes to uncover more talent like Luke Rooney in his new role with Ashford Town

ing used by professional clubs, Patterson has seen firsthand talents can still slip through the net.

One example is Luke Rooney, who ended up in a similar academy at Bromley after failing to make the grade at Charlton. Within a matter of weeks Gillingham had signed him and the 19-year-old has been a regular in the first-team squad.

Patterson is hopeful of discovering more players and will not forget his former employers if

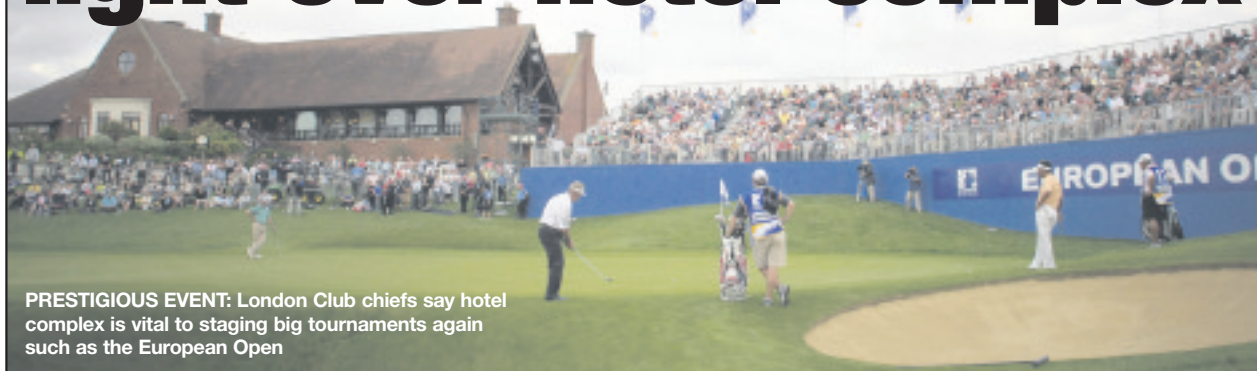
he stumbles on another Rooney.

He said: "Luke was not deemed good enough but went another route and has now probably bypassed a lot of the lads he was at Charlton with. I'd make sure Mark Stimson knew about it if we got someone a bit special."

Trials for the new academy will be held at the North School on April 22. Anyone interested needs to download an application form from Ashford Town's website.

Patterson picture: KEITH SLATER, Rooney picture: ADY KERRY

Golf club awaiting green light over hotel complex



PRESTIGIOUS EVENT: London Club chiefs say hotel complex is vital to staging big tournaments again such as the European Open

Planners make request for more information

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

PLANS to build a luxury hotel at the London Golf Club have been delayed for several weeks after extra documents were requested to bolster the application.

The club at Ash, near Brands Hatch, is hoping to construct a 130-bed four or five-star hotel with spa and conference facilities.

The project is key to hopes of bringing top-level European Tour events back to the course following the successful staging of the European Open in 2008 and 2009.

Part of the reason it was left off the 2010

calendar was a lack of onsite accommodation, which would be solved if the building plans were approved.

A planning application was submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in December. It was hoped to be considered this month, but planning officers asked for extra information before looking at the proposals in detail.

Austen Gravestock, general manager at the London Club, said: "Some of the requirements were quite lengthy and until the council had those they weren't willing to put it live as a received decision. It did slow it down but in a way it's good they wanted it in advance because it shows the application is being taken seriously."

One of the more problematic additions was

the need for high quality topographical photographs showing the impact the planned building would have on the landscape. They could not be taken during the worst of the winter weather, which held up the process.

With all the extra paperwork now submitted the council validated the application this week, although there is no timeframe yet as to when the plans will be considered.

In the meantime the club will continue to consult local residents. Representatives made a presentation to Stansted and Fairseat Parish Council last month and Gravestock has been encouraged by the general response from the public.

He said: "It's been very positive from the people we've met. A couple of residents have even written letters of support for the application."

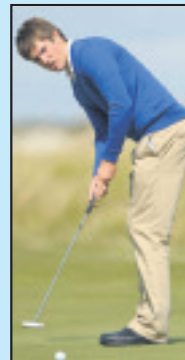
Haines shines for England in cup

MATT Haines helped England retain the European Nations Cup last weekend to continue his impressive start to the amateur golf season.

The 20-year-old golfer from Rochester was part of a four-man England team which dominated the competition at Sotogrande Golf Club in Spain.

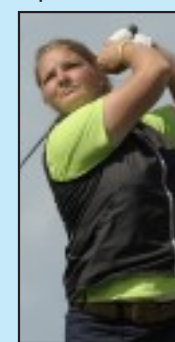
England led from the opening round and never looked back with Haines, Tommy Fleetwood, Tom Lewis and Chris Paisley all shooting rounds under-par. By the end of the fourth and final round, England surged into a commanding lead and finished 23 shots ahead of nearest rivals Italy.

In the individual competition Haines finished third overall behind team-mate Fleetwood and winner Nino Bertaisio from Italy, which lifted him to seventh in the amateur world rankings.



Aitken putts in a steady display

CLAIRE Aitken made a solid start to her season on the Ladies European Tour (LET) as she made the cut at the Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco.



The 24-year-old from Gravesend finished in 61st place which was an encouraging start after she made just three cuts in the whole of last season.

Dani Masters was less successful, missing the cut by two shots. The 27-year-old from Maidstone was well in contention after a level par first round, but a six-over-par

round of 78 saw her tumble down the field. Both golfers will have to be patient for their next LET tournament, the Turkish Ladies Open, which begins on May 7.

Pelly hopes it's third time lucky in Boat Race

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



ROW HOPE: Henry Pelly has been on the losing side for Cambridge in the last two Boat Races

KENT rower Henry Pelly is desperate to avoid an unwanted hat-trick by helping Cambridge to glory in his final Boat Race appearance next weekend.

The 26-year-old has been on the losing side for the last two years and Saturday's race will be his last chance to be part of a victorious crew in the iconic race.

He said: "It will definitely be my last Boat Race, so I hope to sign off with a win and not three defeats. I've still had to go through all the usual trials and I'm pleased

to be in the crew again. I always felt pretty confident I would be picked again."

The Bromley-born rower hopes to go on and break into the Great Britain rowing squad for the 2012 Olympics. His final act with Cambridge has been disrupted by a late change in the line-up, which will see him occupy the crucial six seat.

Despite the switch, he is confident about the light blues' chances.

He said: "We have had to make changes late on, but I don't think it has hindered

our preparations. Things are building nicely towards the race now."

The renowned contest is one of sport's oldest annual races, dating back to 1829. Cambridge lead the series with 79 wins to Oxford's 75, but the latter have dominated the event for the last two years.

Hundreds of thousands of spectators are expected to line the iconic four-mile course between Putney Bridge and Mortlake for the 156th edition, which begins at 4.30pm next Saturday.

Carpenter 'a one-off individual' says McGuigan

BARRY McGuigan has led the tributes to Harry Carpenter, who died in hospital last weekend, describing the legendary boxing commentator as a "one-off".

The 84-year-old was born in south London but later lived in Sandwich. With one of sport's most instantly recognisable voices, he worked at the BBC for almost 50 years before retiring in 1994. While he worked on a variety of sports throughout his career, it was in boxing where he became synonymous.

Carpenter was an integral part of many boxers' careers and McGuigan, who lives near Faversham, was one of a host of big names to remember him fondly this week.

"Harry was an amazing one-off individual, one we'll never see again," he told the BBC.

"He had a tremendous relationship with the fighters, a real respect and old fashioned honour. It was really unique and that's why it was such a sad day."



LEGEND: Harry Carpenter's commentary complemented a golden age in boxing

After serving in the RAF as a Morse code operator during the Second World War, Carpenter's career as a journalist began in

1946. Although he later contributed to several national newspapers, it was his work with the BBC, where he joined in 1949, for which he will be chiefly remembered.

Carpenter covered some of the biggest sporting events of the last century, including the epic 'Rumble in the Jungle' clash between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire.

His likeable character and deep love for the sport helped him build a friendship with many of the sport's biggest names outside the ring, most famously including Frank Bruno.

The pair formed a double act in later years, with Bruno's catchphrase "know what I mean 'arry" coming out of their verbal sparring.

In later years Carpenter was a recognisable figure in Sandwich and could often be found playing golf at nearby Royal St George's, where he was an honorary member.

Centre saddled up for top status

CALLUM Park Equestrian Centre has become the first riding centre in the county to achieve Clubmark status.

The mark is awarded to clubs which satisfy minimum requirements aimed at providing a safe, high quality environment for young people.

Callum Park, near Sittingbourne, is the first riding centre in Kent to achieve the mark from the British Equestrian Federation, which operates the scheme with the British Horse Society (BHS).

John McGee, managing director at the centre, said: "Callum Park are delighted to receive the Clubmark recognition. We believe Clubmark status will become an increasingly important measure of a centre's professionalism."

Callum Park has taught more than 17,000 people to ride and works with schools and colleges to make riding available to a wider audience. It has also been shortlisted to host training camps ahead of the London Olympics in 2012.

Mos coach fuming over trophy penalty

INVICTA Dynamos will not collect the trophy if they win their league play-offs next month in protest at a decision which has seen them forfeit one of their group games, writes David Pritchard.

The squad, which won the National League South 1 title earlier this month, initially threatened to pull out of the post-season altogether over the move, but will now honour their fixtures.

The problem arose from their play-off game against Bracknell Hornets at the Gillingham Ice Bowl next weekend. It was scheduled for next Saturday, when the Mos have no access to the rink.

Requests to switch the game to the Sunday, the side's regular match day, proved fruitless and the English Ice Hockey Association (EIHA) have now awarded the points to Bracknell.

The Mos must now win the reverse game at Bracknell and their home and away games with Oxford Stars to reach the play-off final.

Head coach Kevin Parrish was furious with the decision and vowed if his side triumph, they will not accept the trophy from EIHA officials.

He said: "If we win we'll turn our backs and go and clap our fans. We won't pick up their cup,

I know it sounds like a spoilt brat but why should we let them have their five minutes of fame by awarding us with a trophy?"

"I think this will make the boys want to absolutely steamroller everyone in this competition, so maybe it could work in our favour."

The EIHA were unavailable for comment when contacted before Kent on Sunday went to press. The Mos begin their play-off games at Oxford next Sunday.



PROTEST: Mos' coach Kevin Parrish



LOOKING SHARP: Amjad Khan has impressed since returning from a stint Down Under

KENT OVERSEAS TARGET IN WAIT FOR CLEARANCE

EXCLUSIVE

By GLENN PEARSON

A WORK permit stands in the way of Kent adding to their threadbare seam attack after the club struck a deal with an international fast bowler this week.

The county have moved quickly to replace Australian Stuart Clark, who won't be joining over concerns about his fitness, with the signing of a new quick bowler who hopes to join Kent on April 26.

That, however, hinges on the seamer obtaining a work permit to play in this country, which is an issue that has plagued the county in recent years.

The club were unable to retain South African Justin Kemp because new guidelines states a Kolpak player must have held a work permit for four years, while Kent also missed out on Pakistani Sohail Tanvir at the end of last season due to visa complications.

County head coach, Paul Farbrace, will give no better odds than 50/50 as to whether the new signing will get clearance to play, but says the club are working hard to pull it off.

As the player is involved in the Indian Premier League, the deal hinges on him meeting the necessary visa requirements in India,

Club sweat on rubber stamp of approval for new seamer

rather than going back to his native country.

"In essence the contract and deal has been done, it's now about getting the work permit," Farbrace said. "If we get to the stage where the player has to go back to his country and the amount of time he can spend here then gets reduced, we would probably pull the plug. That's why I am not getting too excited, we are no more than 50/50 at pulling it off. But, if we can get that player in, it will take a lot of pressure off our seam attack in the early part of the season."

If all is successful, the overseas star will feature for Kent in five LV=County Championship and five Clydesdale Bank 40 games.

The county received good news this week when fast bowler Robbie Joseph was given the all-clear by consultants to up the workload in pre-season training.

The 28-year-old had an operation on his shoulder at the end of last season and has



ALL CLEAR: Robbie Joseph can step up training

been working tentatively building up strength over the winter.

He will now work on his fitness in the nets in pre-season with the aim of making the side for the first game of the season against Nottinghamshire on April 15.

Farbrace said: "[Robbie] has had major surgery and as a fast bowler to have your right shoulder operated on is a big thing.

"Fingers crossed he will be okay, he has just got to build up the power and strength in the joint, once he does that I think we will be seeing an exciting prospect."

Fellow pacemen Amjad Khan has returned from five weeks away in Melbourne, Australia looking sharp and Farbrace admits keeping both Khan and Joseph fit will be key this summer.

"Amjad's levels of fitness are the best they have ever been, but with all fast bowlers you have got to look after them and don't put them through their paces too soon," he said.

"They are our cutting edge, we have to take care of them, not wrap them in cotton wool but we do need them to run in and bowl with a bit of pace, because the rest of our attack is about consistency and line and length and those two will be our matchwinners."

County to unveil new chief tomorrow

A NEW chief executive will be introduced to Kent members at tomorrow night's Annual General Meeting at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury.

Widely expected to be Jamie Clifford, who has filled in as acting chief executive after Paul Millman departed at the end of last year, club chairman George Kennedy remained tight-lipped when pressed about the identity of the new man.

Kent on Sunday understands some Football League chief executives applied for the post and while Kennedy wouldn't confirm who they were, he did say there had been interest in the post from a variety of sports.

He said: "A new CEO will be unveiled on Monday night. I won't embarrass them by naming them but we had people from various other sports who were interested.

"Rugby, soccer and cricket are all very much the same in that their wage bills are spiralling and the bottom line is that it's very difficult to keep that in check."

The meeting will be the first opportunity for members to voice their opinions about an increase in club membership, ground redevelopment and the county's recent financial results.

The meeting takes place at 7pm.

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12